10
BAKEMONOGATARI
OH!GREAT
Original Story:
NISIOISIN
Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MONO

KOYOMI VAMP
KOYOMI VAMP
KOYOMI VAMP
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KOYOMI VAMP

BAKEMONOGATARI

OH!GREAT

10

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

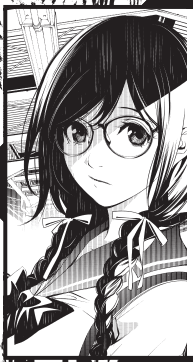
Original Character
Design: VOFAN

MAIN CHARACTERS

Koyomi Araragi

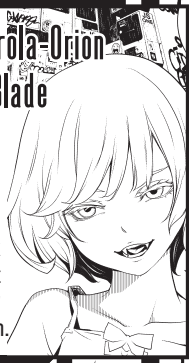
A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. To regain his humanity, he must now fight three vampire hunters.

Tsubasa Hanekawa



Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him. Though an honor student that no honor could sufficiently describe, she goes out of her way to get involved with Koyomi for some reason.

Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

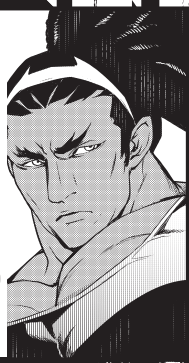


A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from the brink of death. Having lost her powers, she now takes a childish form.

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations who suddenly appeared before Koyomi one day. He offers to act as a go-between for Koyomi and the hunters.

Dramaturgy



A vampire who hunts his own kind. A mass of manly muscle who carries an equally massive sword.

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade. He was fully prepared to die for her, but instead finds that he has become her vampiric thrall. To become human again, he must now fight three hunters who are after Kiss-Shot. Koyomi curses his fate as he heads to battle, but just before he reaches the site of his first duel, his new friend, Tsubasa Hanekawa, appears before him for some unknown reason...

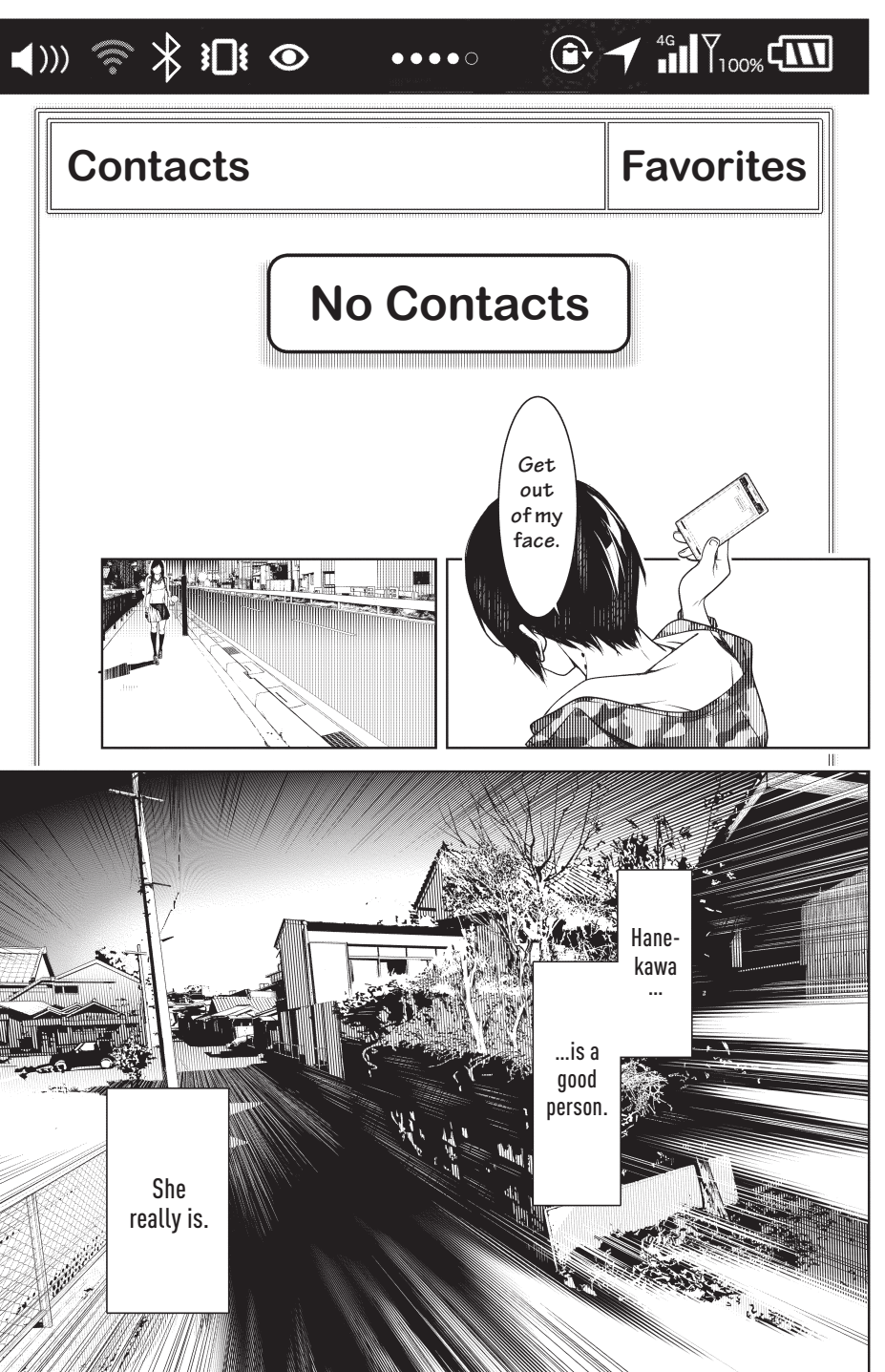
Chapter 0

Koyomi Vamp

BOOK DESIGN
VEIA

A...
Anyway, Hane-kawa...
I'm alone because I *want* to be alone. Stop following me.
You're a nui-sance.

Ah ...
Araragi?! Hey... Wait a second!
And don't mess with someone's phone without their permission.
Hanekawa
Tsubasa
Favorite
You have one contact selected.
Delete?
Cancel
OK
BEEP


Contacts
Favorites
No Contacts
Get out of my face.
Hane-kawa ...
...is a good person.
She really is.

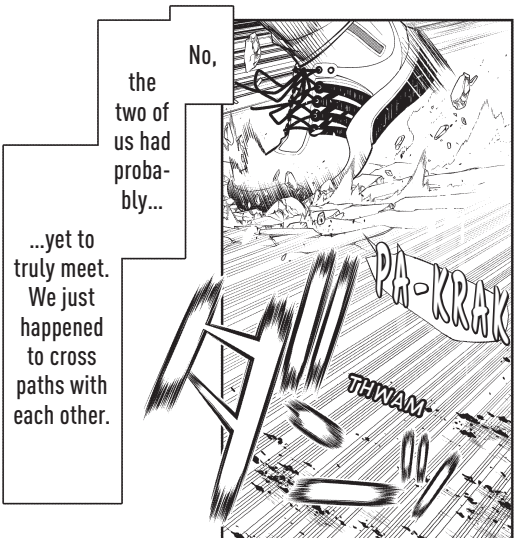
Sorry.
For forcing you to say all of that.
Dam-mit!
She's not like me.
I needed to quickly part ways with Hanekawa before going to the place where I agreed to meet Dramaturgy.
I couldn't allow her to get involved.

But those were just excuses.
I was frustrated— and all I did was take that out on her.
I wanted to make Hanekawa my outlet for them. That's all.
a tangled knot of emotions.
There was a big, jumbled mess inside of me—

THWAM
So...
It was for the best.
BOING
PA-KRAK

So I was lucky.
I was fortunate that we'd parted ways before any ties could form between us.

It was good that I'd cut ties with her.


No, the two of us had proba-bly...
...yet to truly meet. We just happened to cross paths with each other.
PA-KRAK
THWAM!

THOK
NAOETSU CONSTRUCTION INC.
PS-2

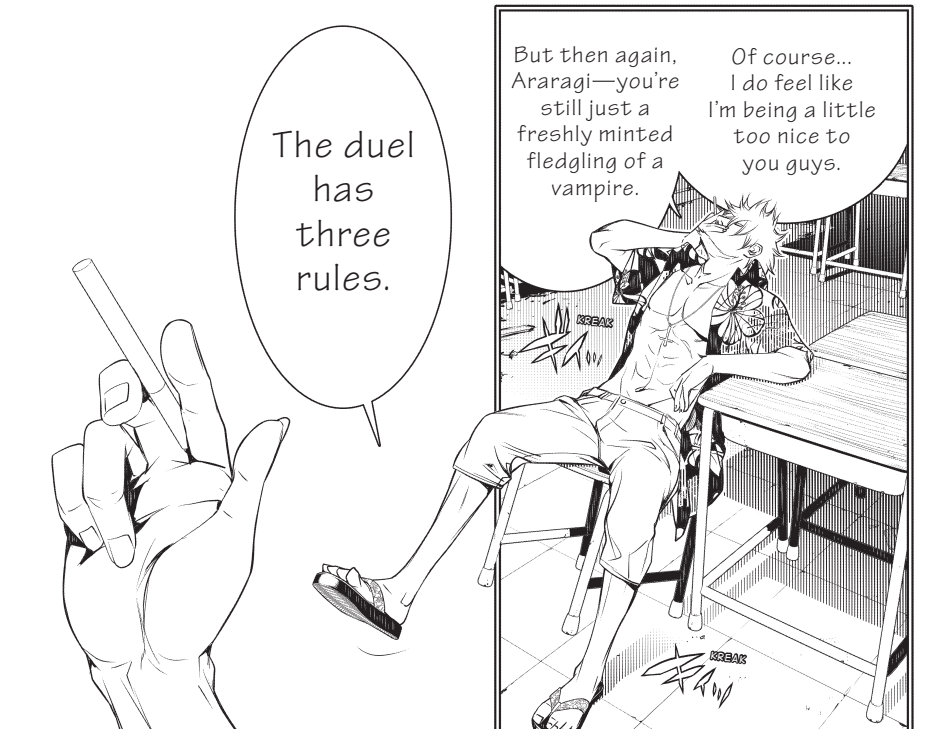
10
POP
Fine.
FIZZZ

That must have done some-thing
to up my intensity as a human.
PHEW...
I was back to being alone.
I'd regained my strength.
Huh ?
Hm ?!
PAT
PAT
PAT
And now ...
?!

There it is.
That beginner's guide to aikido that cost me 2,500 yen.
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
but in terms of endurance, they're not too different from a regular human body...
Vampire bodies might have incredible strength and healing abilities,
Still...
I gotta be careful...
I should definitely ...
be fine with this.

It should be no problem to duel Dramaturgy
and retrieve Kiss-Shot's right arm.
PEDES-
TRIANS
AND
Why are we dueling...
Wait...
...on my school's athletic field...?

It's a bonus.
Just take it.


The duel has three rules.
But then again, Araragi—you're still just a freshly minted fledgling of a vampire.
Of course... I do feel like I'm being a little too nice to you guys.
KREAK
KREAK

NO
KILLING
不殺
1: No killing.
That goes for the both of you.
2: If you win, you get li'l Heart-Under-Blade's limbs back.
3: If you lose, you tell the hunters where she's hiding—which is to say, here.
2-CHOME
AERIAL IMAGES

SWOO...
True —
HOOOOH
I'm going to be fighting a monster like this guy— I should probably thank Oshino for this.
If I don't have at least a little bit of home-field advantage,
I doubt I'd have any chance of coming out on top.

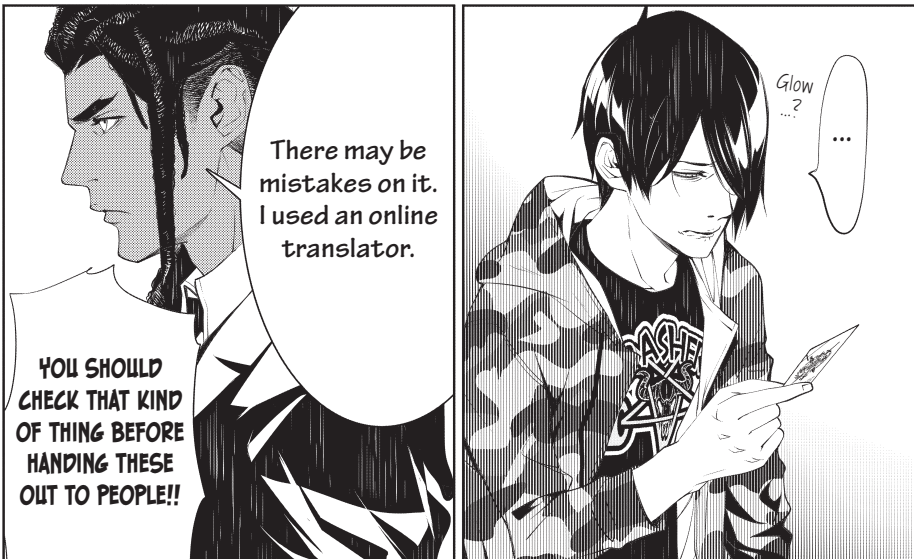
GWOOM
Sorry to keep you wait-ing.

Ah, right... "Speak the language of the land you're in," was it...?
...
Hm ...?
Was he always this... thin?

I've been waiting for you, young man.
Who are you?
Wait, no.
I'm sorry.

This is about as weird as when Jaki Daigouin shows up for the second time in Otokojuku!!!
That's way too big of a change no matter how you look at it!!
This was the form I took when I was still human...
FSST
PTT
I'm here to talk business.
—My good fellow.
Do not misunderstand... I have not come here today to slay you.
SKKT
TWITCH

Join me—
O thrall of Heart-Under-Blade.
Glow Balls
Every Vampire
Annihilating
Organization
Headhunter
Dramaturgy


There may be mistakes on it. I used an online translator.
YOU SHOULD CHECK THAT KIND OF THING BEFORE HANDING THESE OUT TO PEOPLE!!
Glow ...?
...

化 *bake*

物 *mono*

KOYOMIvamp

10

語 *gatari*

化 *bake*

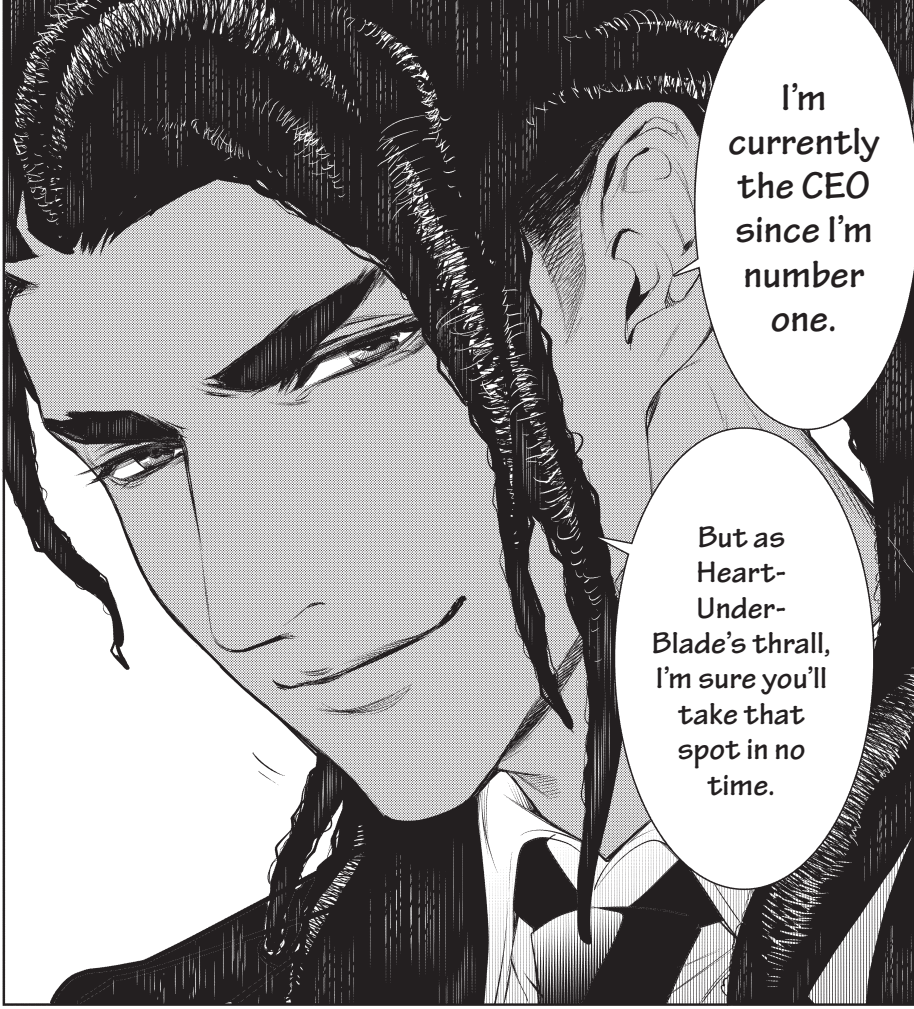
物 *mono*

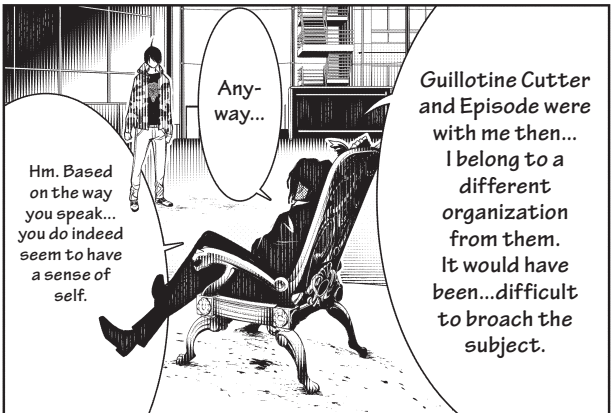
KOYOMIvamp

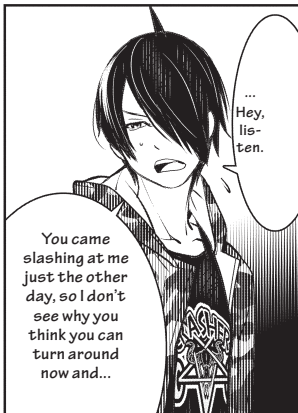
10

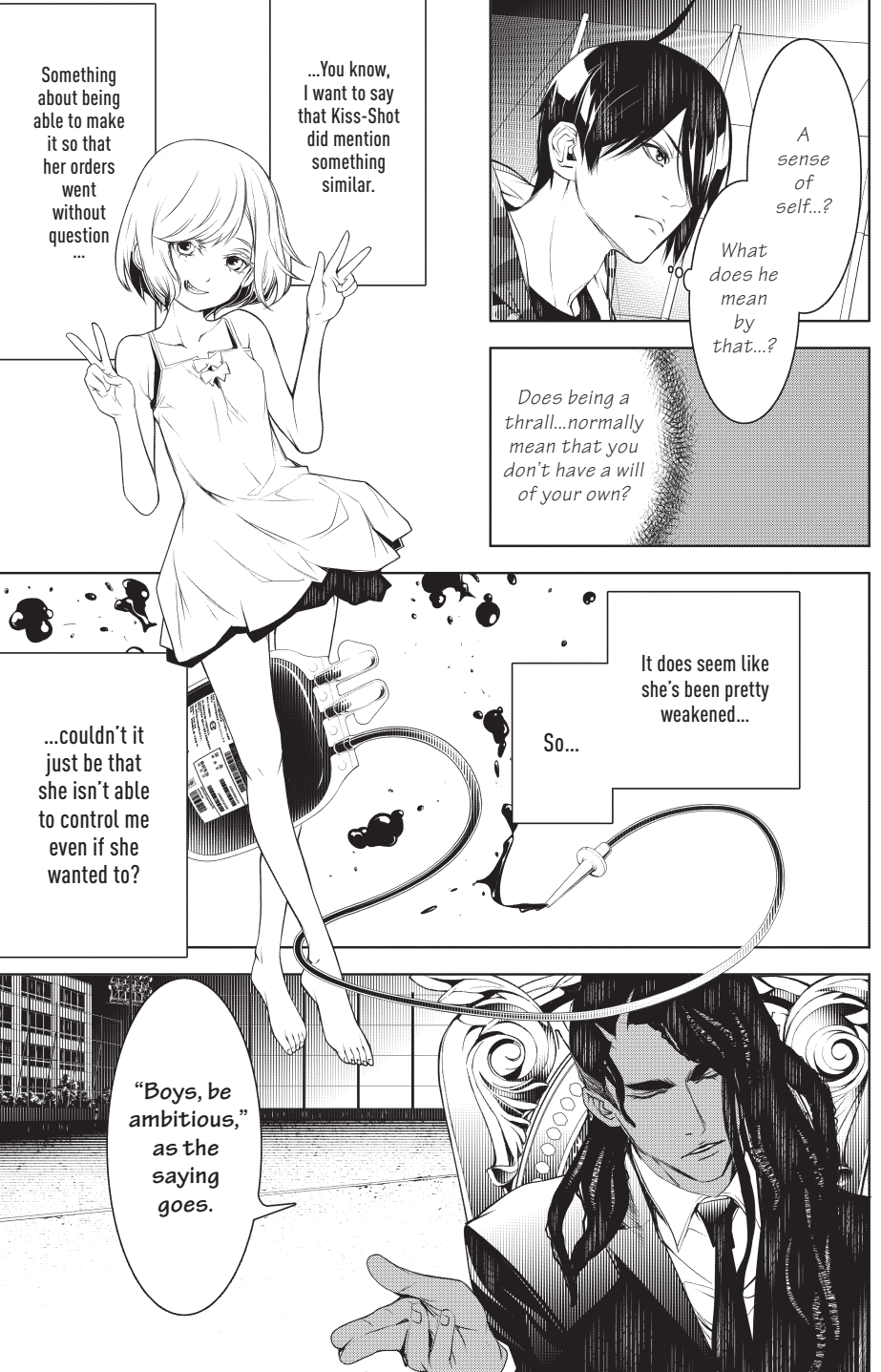
語 *gatari*

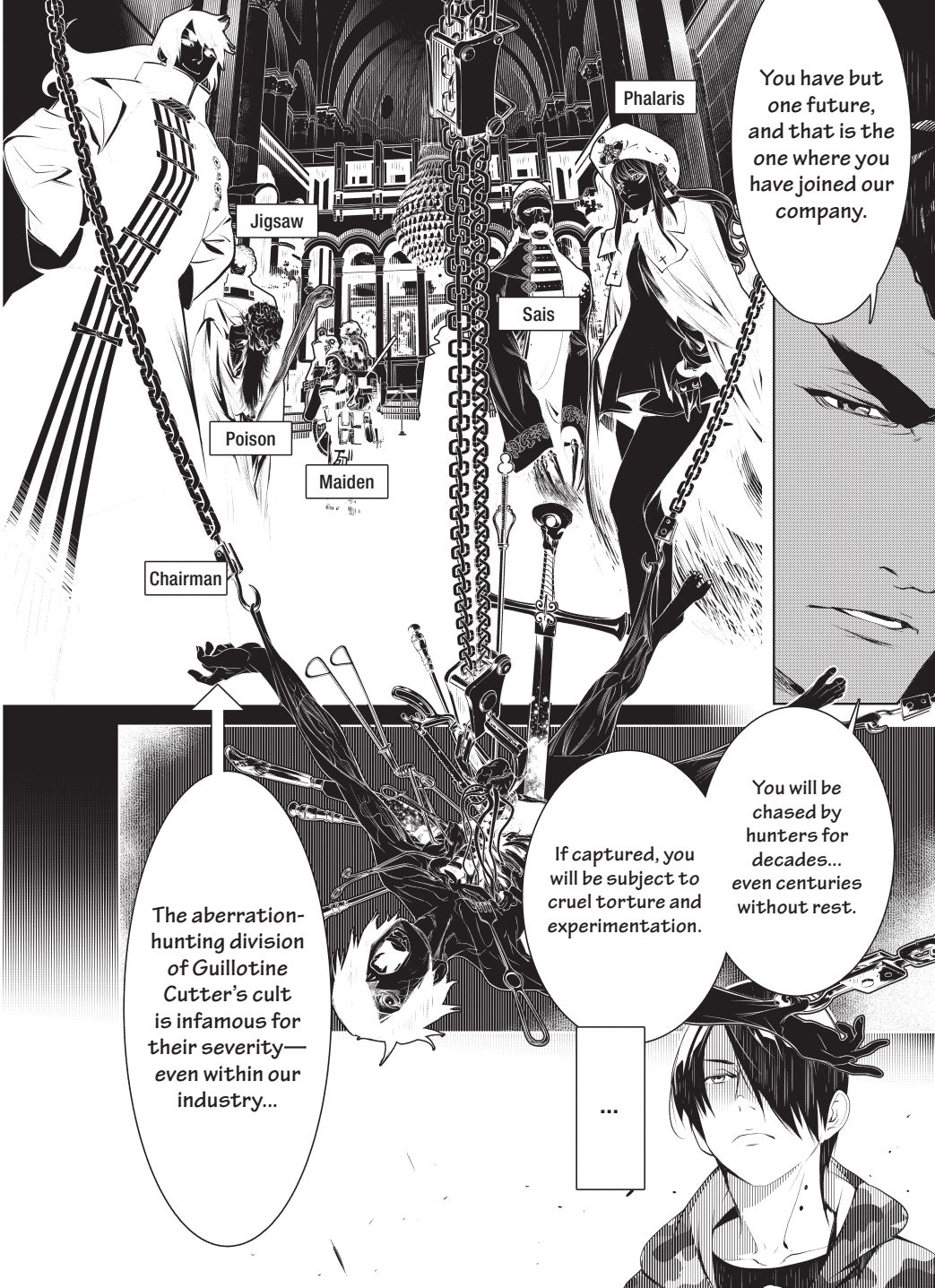
A corporation... that specializes in vampire hunting?
I guess I'm not too shocked that one exists, but...
We have 53 "employees."
They're all vampires.
Probation is two months long. You'll be formally hired after training, though...
Starting salary is 75 Exe. Given this country's cost of living, it's enough to go around having fun for half a year... 15 days of annual paid vacation, but 50 total when you add the two long holidays you get each year.
...it just seems like an awfully nice place to work.


I'm currently the CEO since I'm number one.
But as Heart-Under-Blade's thrall, I'm sure you'll take that spot in no time.

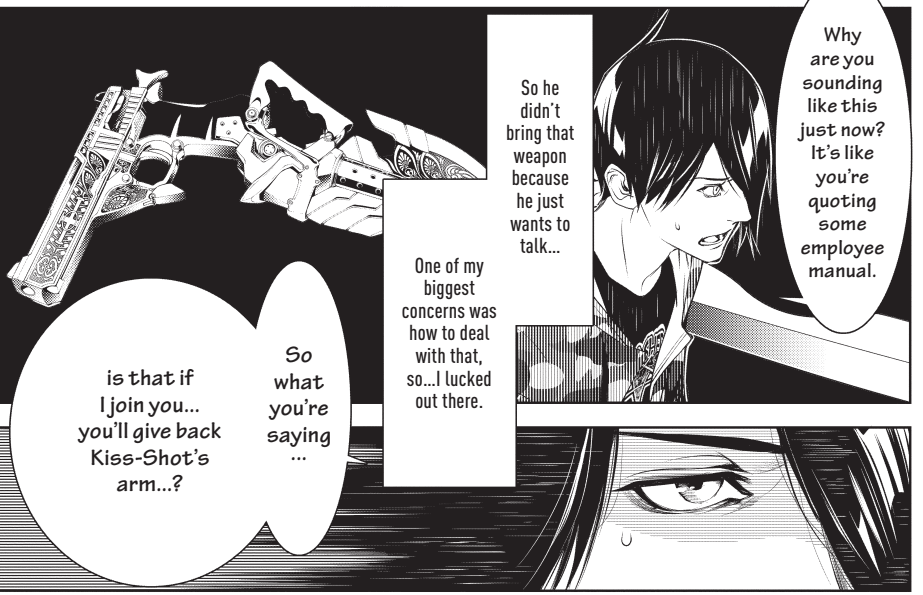

Any-way...
Hm. Based on the way you speak... you do indeed seem to have a sense of self.
Guillotine Cutter and Episode were with me then... I belong to a different organization from them. It would have been...difficult to broach the subject.

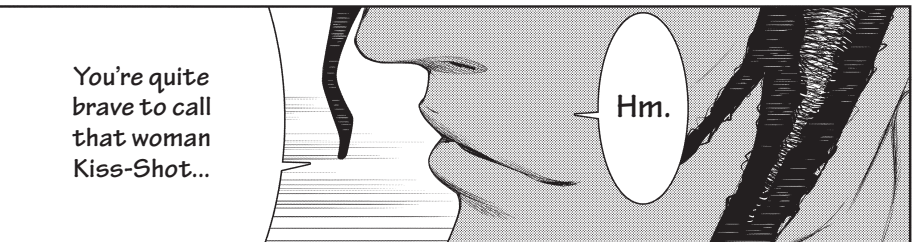

... Hey, lis-ten.
You came slashing at me just the other day, so I don't see why you think you can turn around now and...


Something about being able to make it so that her orders went without question ...
...You know, I want to say that Kiss-Shot did mention something similar.
A sense of self...?
What does he mean by that...?
Does being a thrall...normally mean that you don't have a will of your own?
...couldn't it just be that she isn't able to control me even if she wanted to?
So...
It does seem like she's been pretty weakened...
"Boys, be ambitious," as the saying goes.


Phalaris
You have but one future, and that is the one where you have joined our company.
Jigsaw
Sais
Poison
Maiden
Chairman
The aberration-hunting division of Guillotine Cutter's cult is infamous for their severity—even within our industry...
If captured, you will be subject to cruel torture and experimentation.
You will be chased by hunters for decades... even centuries without rest.
...

We remove aberrations that place an excessive burden on society. Both sides profit.
Basically, our job is a charity of sorts... We do this work for the sake of the people of the world.
Join our company and they won't be able to lay a finger on you.

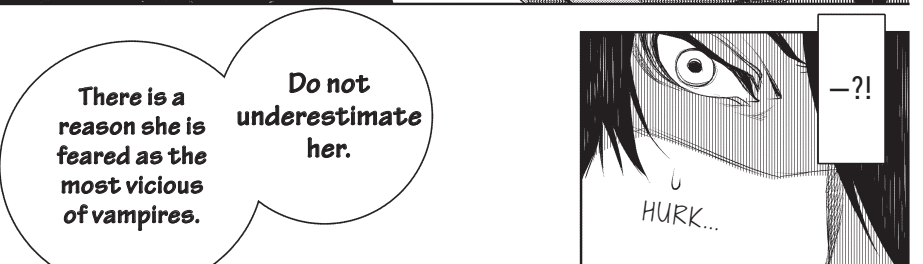

Why are you sounding like this just now? It's like you're quoting some employee manual.
So he didn't bring that weapon because he just wants to talk...
One of my biggest concerns was how to deal with that, so...I lucked out there.
So what you're saying ...
is that if I join you... you'll give back Kiss-Shot's arm...?


Hm.
You're quite brave to call that woman Kiss-Shot...

But no.
Your first job will be to bring me her head.

...will any of it matter if I become human again...?
So... you've been saying all this stuff, but...
Um...

Did that woman tell you how she'll make you human again?


There is a reason she is feared as the most vicious of vampires.
Do not underestimate her.
—?!
HURK...

There is no chance that you will succeed in this mission.
You will return empty-handed... and she will surely humiliate you with the harshest of reprimands ...!!
UNBELIEVABLE! WHAT ART THOU DOING, SCUM!!
FOOL! INCOMPETENT!!
ERM...! BALDPATE! RUNT! CUT THAT FRINGE—IT'S REVOLTING!!
I KNOW THEE NOT!
HARUMPH
DO AS THOU WISHEST! HRMPH!
Her anger will reach a peak... and then I imagine she will abandon you!! A hell worse than any other for a servant...

I HOPE THOU WILT MAKE ME HAPPY NEXT TIME... DO THY BEST?
...W-WELL... 'TWAS UNFORTUNATE, YES...
But she is a cunning one... In order to show even greater contempt for you,
her words will surely change to gentle ones at times...!!
I-I MERELY THOUGHT THAT...
WH-WHAT IS THAT EXPRESSION ON THY FACE?!
WAAAGH !!
BUT... PERHAPS I WAS IN THE WRONG FOR EXPECTING TOO MUCH?
And it will not end there... In what she will call an act of discipline, she will take your head and...!!
And... place her foot upon it...!!
GULP
PANT
PANT
PANT
URGH ...

AHAHAHAHA
HER HUMILIATION WILL THEN ESCALATE FURTHER UNTIL SHE GOES SO FAR AS TO PLACE HER BOTTOM UPON YOUR HEAD...
AND FORCE YOU...TO WALK AROUND WITH IT THERE...!
AGH...! ...N-NO...!! I-I CANNOT SAY ANOTHER WORD!!
JUST PICTURING IT IS ENOUGH TO FREEZE MY BLOOD WITH RAGE...!!

Isn't that just...
...
...the best possible thing that could happen to a guy...?

—I cannot understand you.
It seems you have rather unique tastes...
...!!
For that to possibly be a reward...
...it would require an ass measuring at least three feet in width.

I see.
SIGH
はぁ…
You need to work on your sales pitch for next time.
I don't think we're ever going to see eye-to-eye here.
You're never going to sweet talk a lady with lines like that, you know.
Er.
Um...
It... didn't land ...?
Wait, now I'm just super embar-rassed...
So I guess... we should get star—

ZLURCH

KRAK
KRAK
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
GWOOSH
GWOOSH
TWIRL
TWIRL

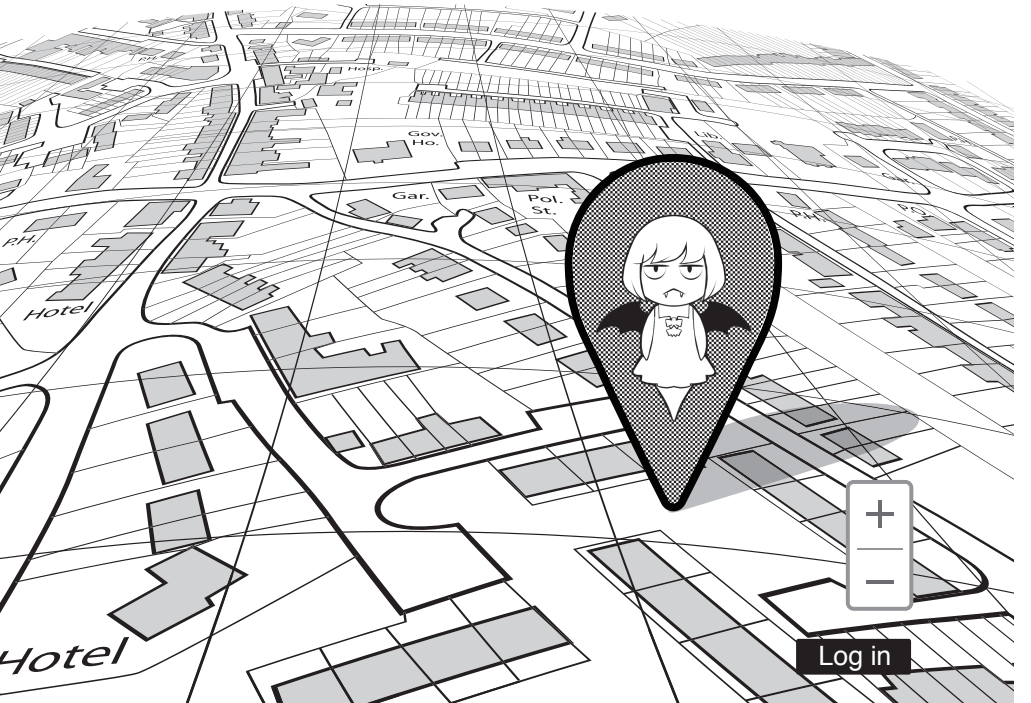
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
GWOOSH

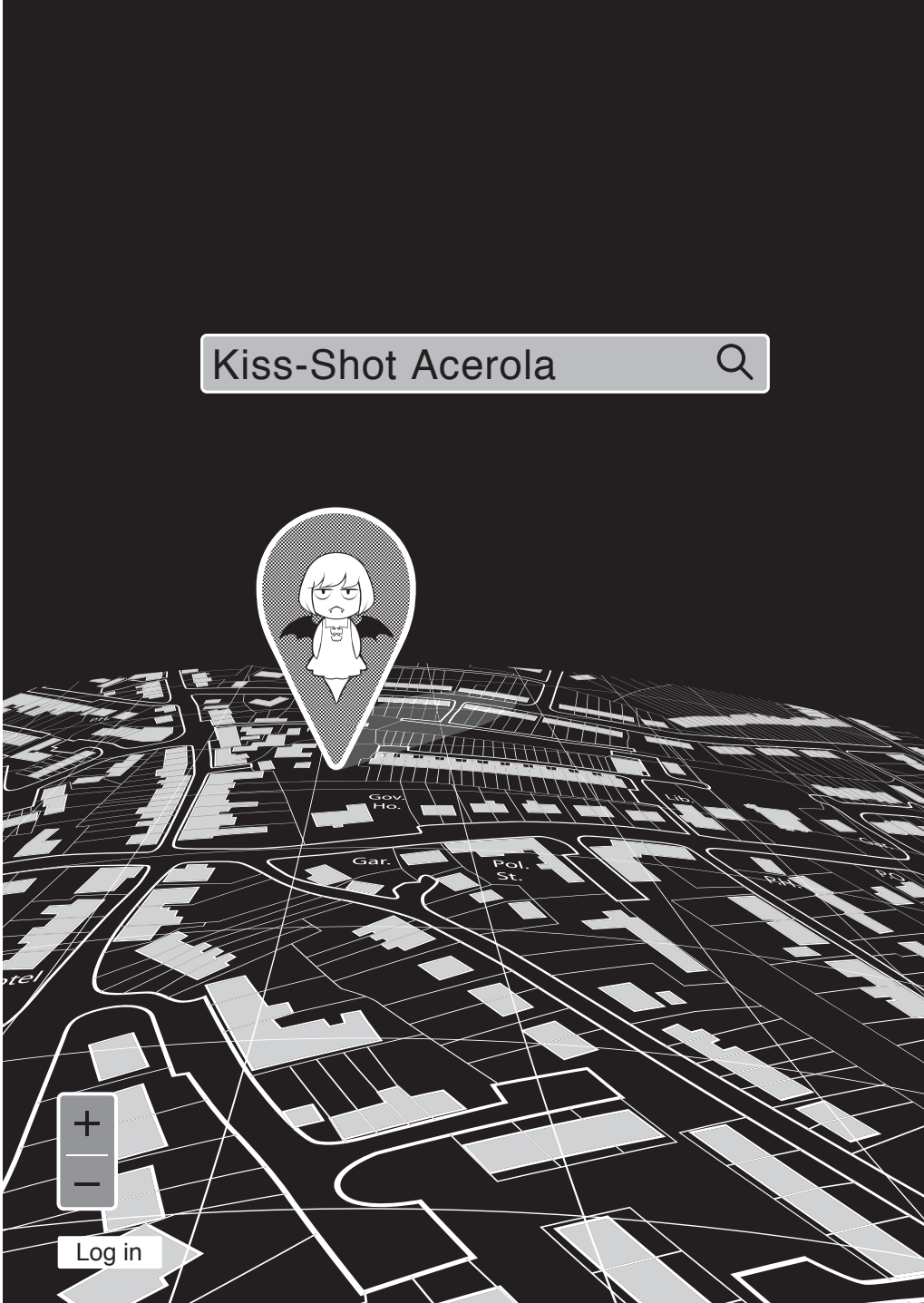
Wh...
What was th...
SHHK
Ah!
ZSSSHH
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
ZSSSHH

You're honest to a fault, young man.

JKKT
SKRRK
I like that about you.
FSOOH

Kiss-Shot



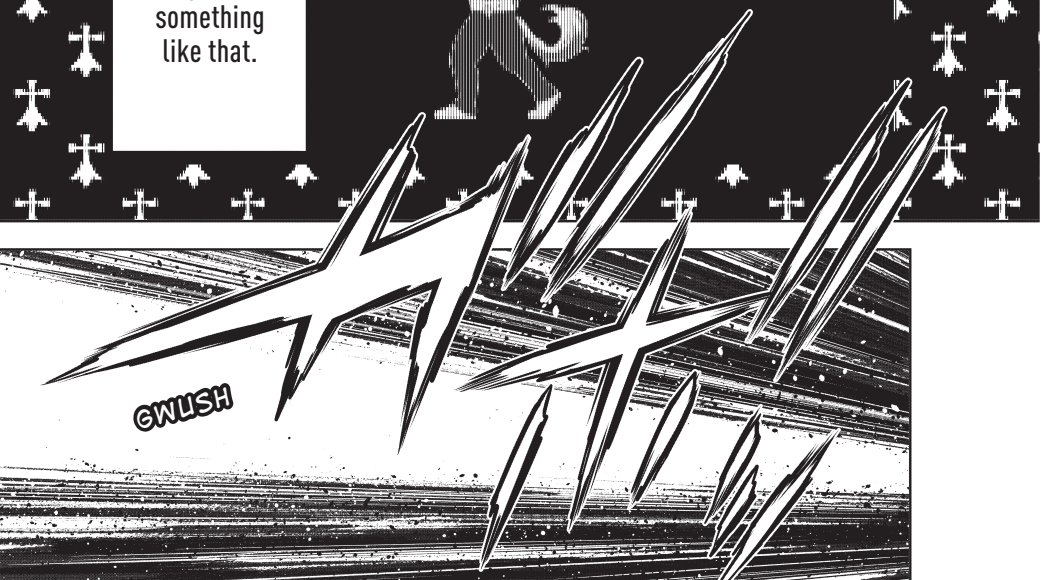

Kiss-Shot Acerola
Gov. Ho.
Gar.
Pol. St.
Log in

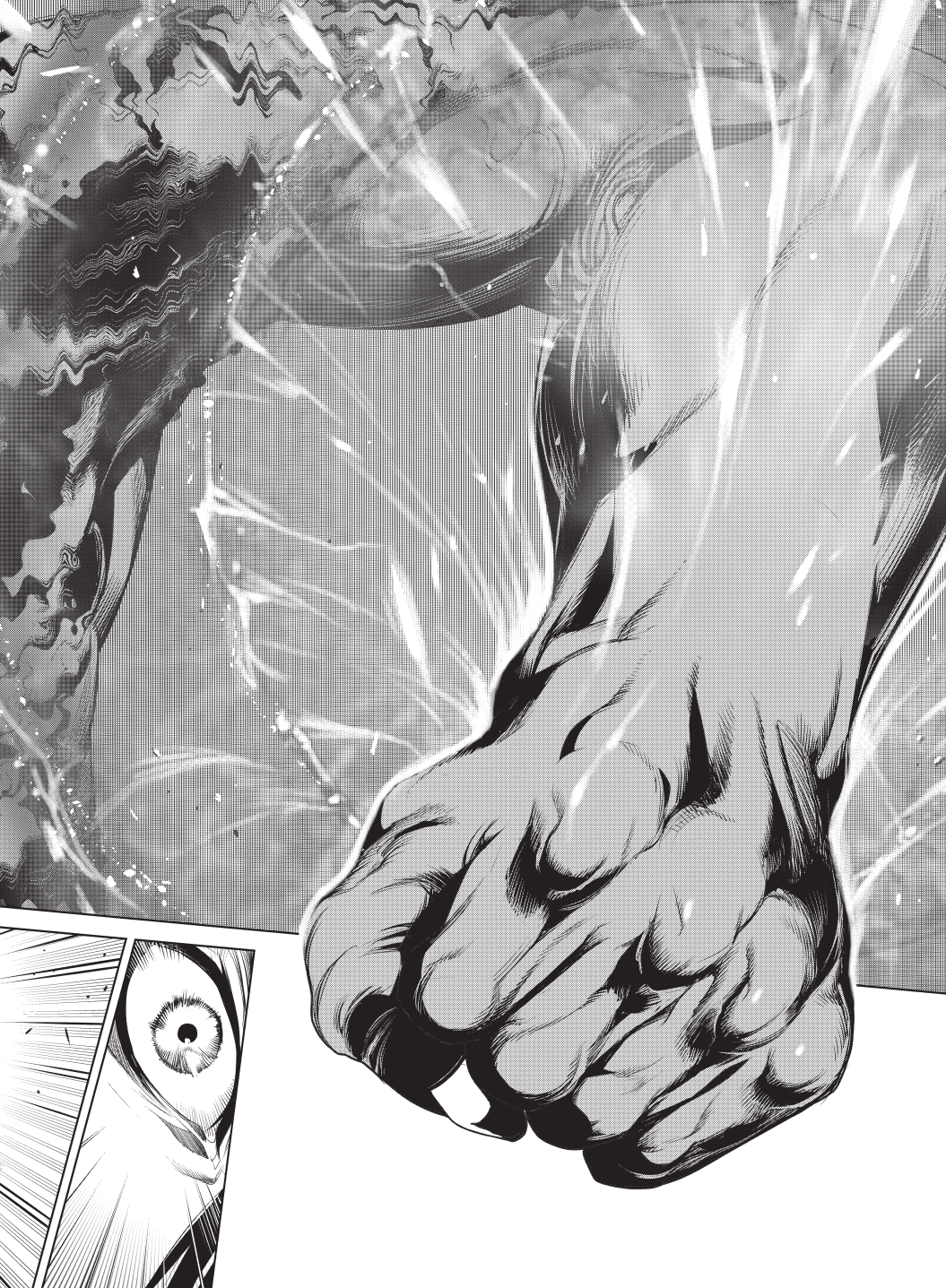
—Oh, right.

I guess I'd heard that somewhere before.

That in the West,

werewolves are sometimes lumped in with vampires, or something like that.





BOOM
—But it goes without saying
that now was not the time for such carefree musings.

THWAK
FZZT
A
A
A
A
A
H

"The Essence of Aikido from Step One."
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
According to this book...the first step is to use your opponent's strength against them.
SKRRK
SKRRK
SNATCH
ZAKK
ZAKK
Let's see...
So... like this...

And then this !!
BWOOF
Whoa.
ZAKK
BOOM

Then like...
This !!
THOOM
KREAK
W... Wow.
It's locked in!!
KREAK
KREAK
KREAK
So? How do you like that?!
S—
Enh ?!
Cut the non-sense and sur-render already !
So, you are still clinging to the common sense you acquired as a human...? Well, I suppose that is only natural.

...Hm ...?
Hold on...
What's going on?
Ah...
...I kind of sound exactly like...
...a character who's about to have the tables turned on him...
Or I'll take this drainpipe of an arm...
...and snap it in two!!
THBPPT
ZZT

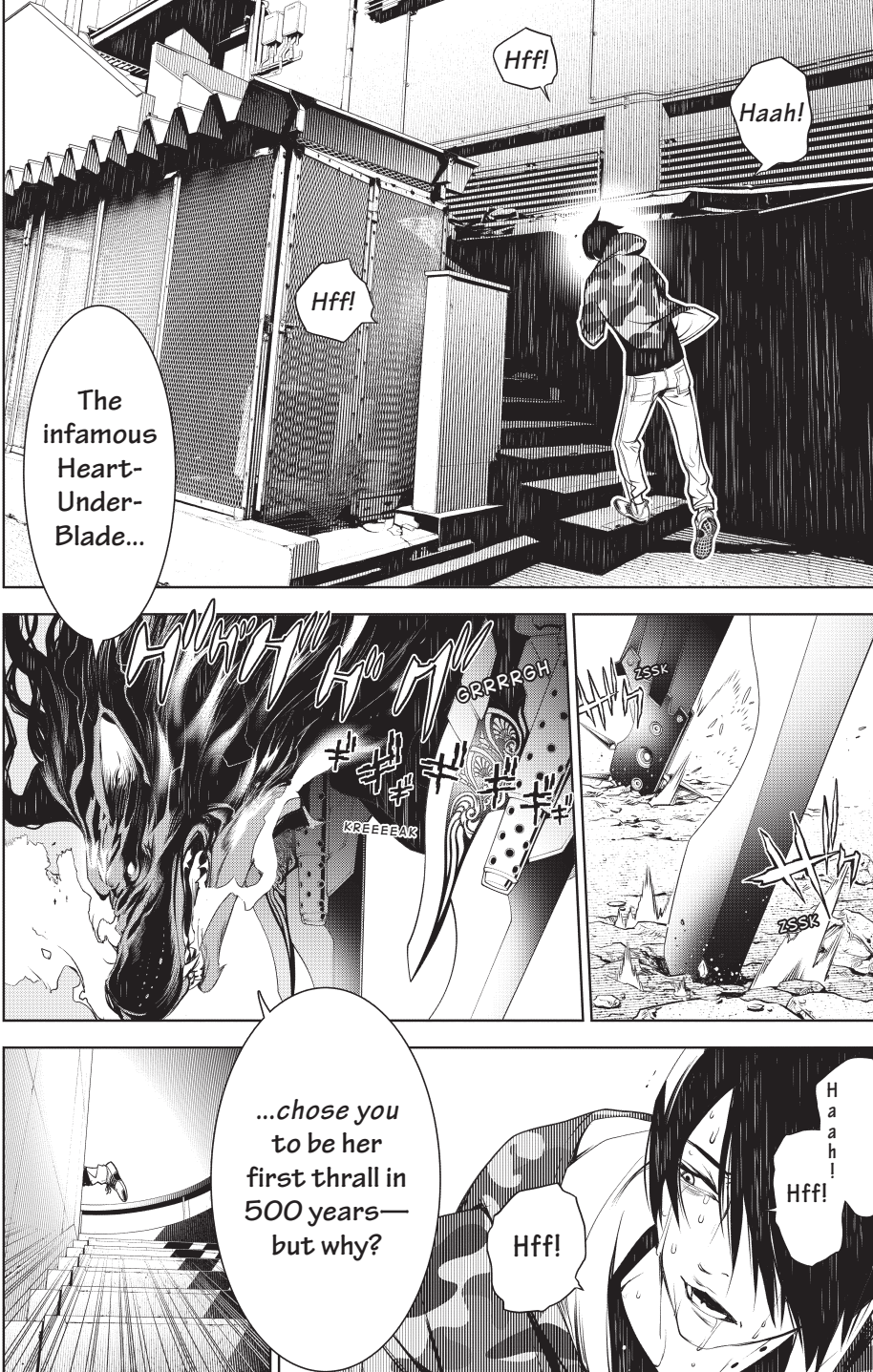
Oh.
Ah —
I see ...
The *common sense* I had as a human.
I get what he was talking about now.
THUD
... Ergh!
PLIP
PLIP.
SHINK
GA-SHUNK
What am I, stupid?
AAA AAA AAGH !!

GA-CHKK
I could throw him—I could break his arm...
So what?
Eek!
He could heal any damage I dealt in no time.
And me thinking that he'd left his weapons behind in order to recruit me...
How quaint of a delusion could one man have?
This guy—just *turned a part of his own body into a weapon*...!!

Grrh!
Aagh ?!
?!!
Wha ...?!!
ZZZZ
ZZZZ
THROB
THROB
Ah...
Ergh ?!
ZSSK
Gr-rgh!
Nn-ngh!
TREMBLE
I...I can barely stand-ing...!
SHIVER
SHIVER
My wounds... They're not healing either ...?!
Before this, they'd been healing so fast that I didn't even have time to register the pain...
What's... going on...?!
TREM-BLE
TREM-BLE
SHIVER
Those are my cells.

They may appear to be interfering with your ability to heal,
but they are not.
Those cells absorb your blood in order to multiply—and control you.
They are working to erase your very existence.
GRR
W-Wait, that reminds me...!
In any case, do be careful not to let him suck thy blood.
Vampires who have their blood sucked by another vampire will see their very existence wrung dry.
I do recall Kiss-Shot saying something along those lines...
So she was telling me something super important!
How could she be so casual about it?!
Now then! My extremely thoughtful lecture for beginners ends here!!

SWOOSH
BOOM
Eek!
DASH
Ow!
Ow!
Hyeek!
Hyeek!
Oww...!
THROB
THROB


Hff!
Haah!
Hff!
The infamous Heart-Under-Blade...
GRRRRGH
KREEEEAR
ZSSK
ZSSK
...chose you to be her first thrall in 500 years—but why?
Hff!
Haah!
Hff!

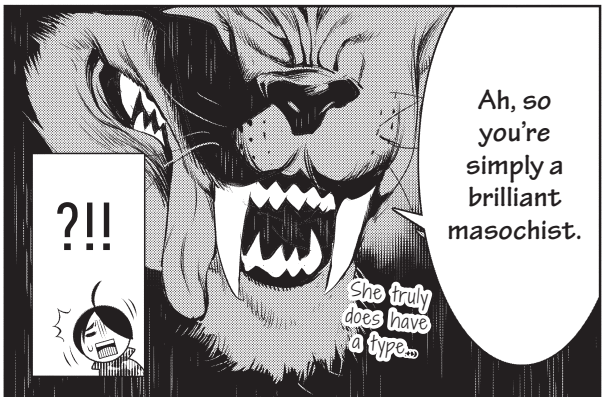
BOOM
Is your ability to flee your only notable trait?
GRRR

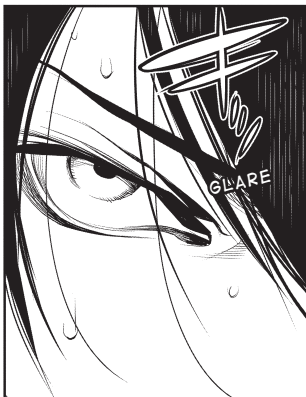
No.
THD
SORRIND
Ngh!
I'm not...
ZHT
Gaaaah!
... running away ...!!

Ngra-
aagh
!!
ZZZZNK
POP
POP
POP
POP
POP
SPLISH
SPLISH

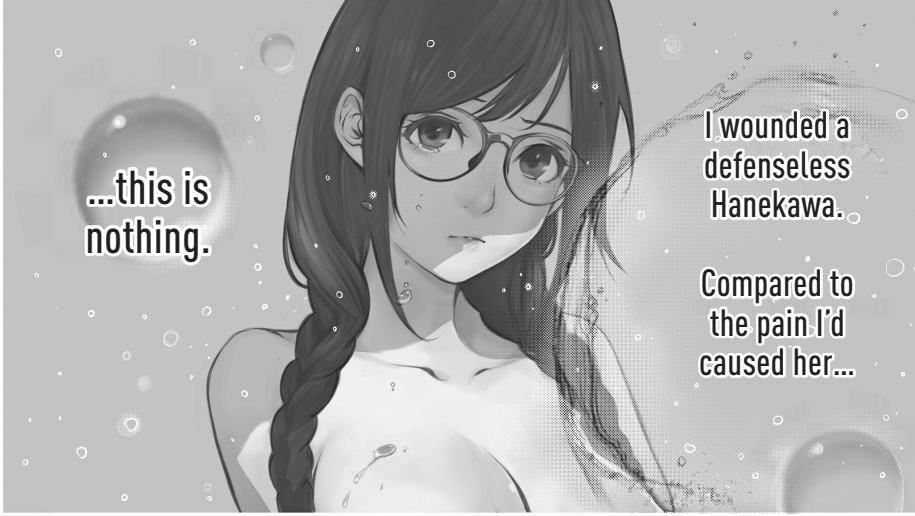
I see.
Scraping away my cells in such a manner...?

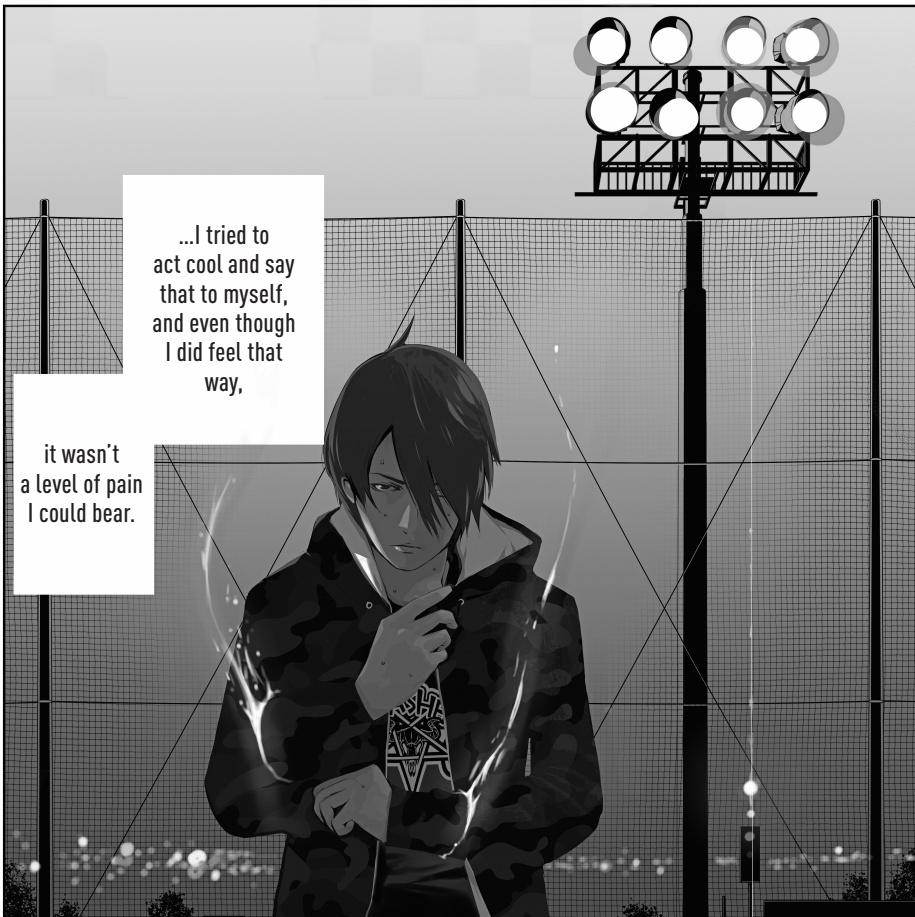
Hah!
Hfff!
Hfff!
SKRRL
SKRRL
FSSSH


?!!
She truly does have a type...
Ah, so you're simply a brilliant masochist.


GLARE

BAKEMONO GATARI 10

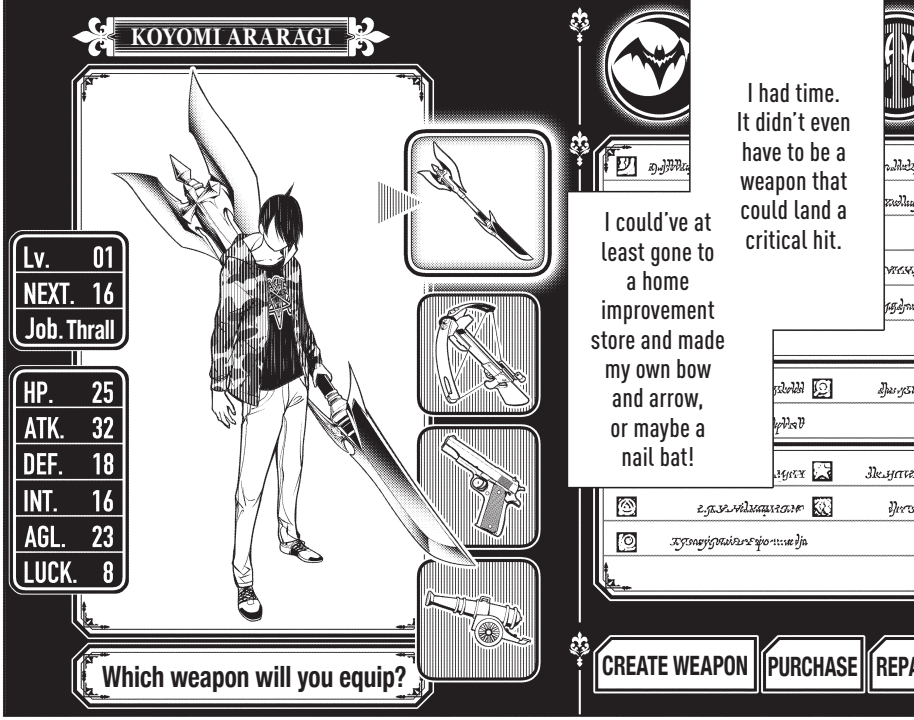

...this is nothing.
I wounded a defenseless Hanekawa.
Compared to the pain I'd caused her...


...I tried to act cool and say that to myself, and even though I did feel that way,
it wasn't a level of pain I could bear.

ZAKK
I got my arms back... but—
now what do I do?
Eek!
BOOM

Fhh !!!
GWOOSH
Whoa—
Ah !
It seemed ...

...that what Dramaturgy said about me was right.
My ability to flee was my only strong point.
Of course it was. I weigh 120 pounds.
Dramaturgy easily breaks 650, no matter how you look at it.
I'm easily the more powerful one, pound-for-pound!
But, well...
So what.
CRASH
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
RMBL
Dam-mit.
Why'd I show up empty-handed, anyway?
I knew I'd be facing someone bringing those massive swords.


KOYOMI ARARAGI
Lv. 01
NEXT. 16
Job. Thrall
HP. 25
ATK. 32
DEF. 18
INT. 16
AGL. 23
LUCK. 8
Which weapon will you equip?
I could've at least gone to a home improvement store and made my own bow and arrow, or maybe a nail bat!
I had time. It didn't even have to be a weapon that could land a critical hit.
CREATE WEAPON
PURCHASE
REPA

Ugh...! Why'd I spend 2,500 yen...
...on a useless investment at a bookstore?!
What's this useless aikido book going to do for me?
BOOMF
Paper / rnable

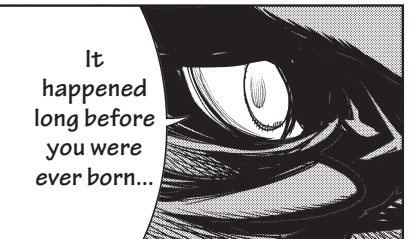
...What?
This book ...

Oh...
There must have been a mix-up then...!

PAPER BURNABLE
PAPER BURNABLE
PLASTIC BOTTLES
GLASS AND ALUMINUM

GKKT
What's the mat-ter?

THWOOM
Giving up already?


It happened long before you were ever born...

A three-day-long squall that was a 50-50 mix of rain and Agent Orange.
That's ...
...when I told my commander —

So that's how you grip it.
FLAP
Oh.
Makes sense.
CRASH
Weekly BASEBALL for Beginners
Your First Step Toward Koshien
...Hey. Listen to me.
This will be instructive for you—

...
Huh?
Crap...! I missed ...
...
THWAP
CHWUNK
BOOF

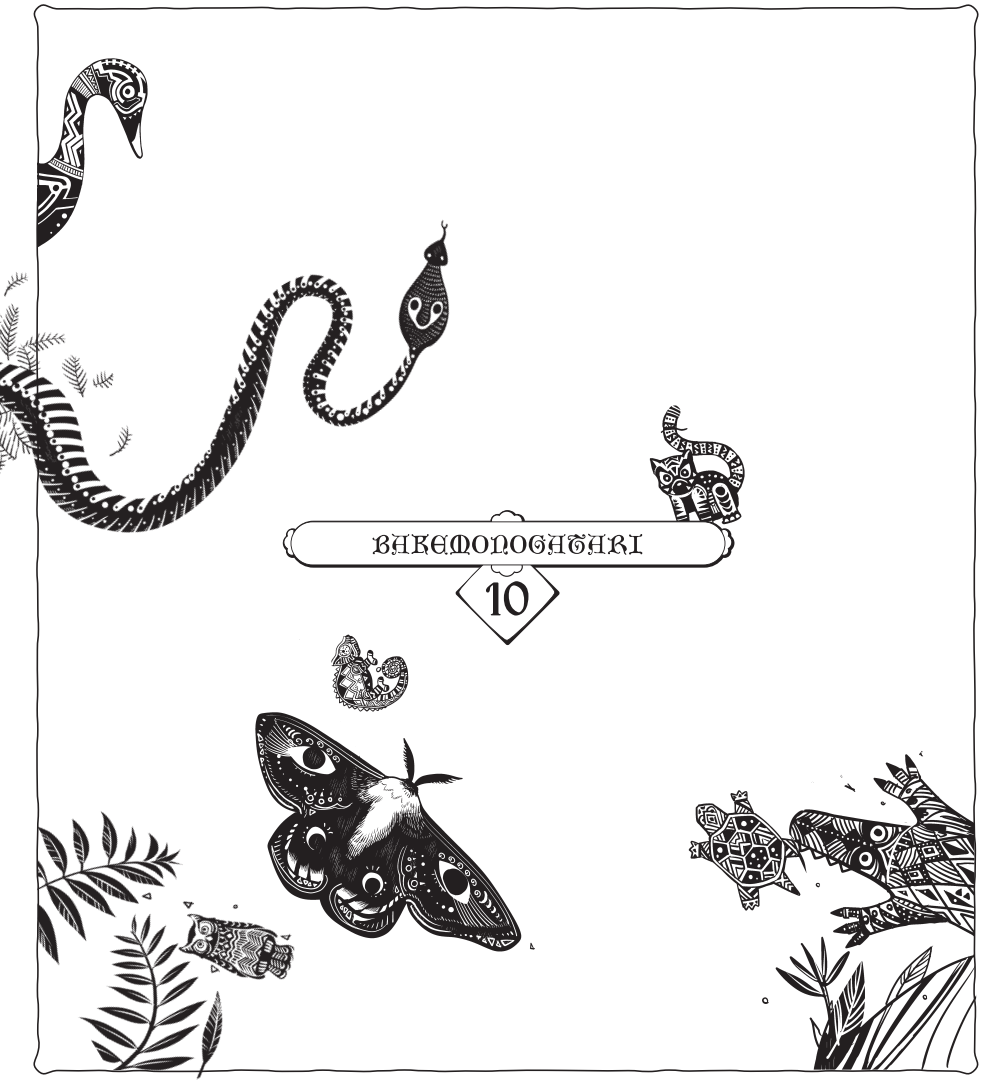
KRAAASH
THNK
THNK
POPP
FIZZZZ
SIZZZZ
SIZZLE
GRMBL
GRMBL
GRMBL

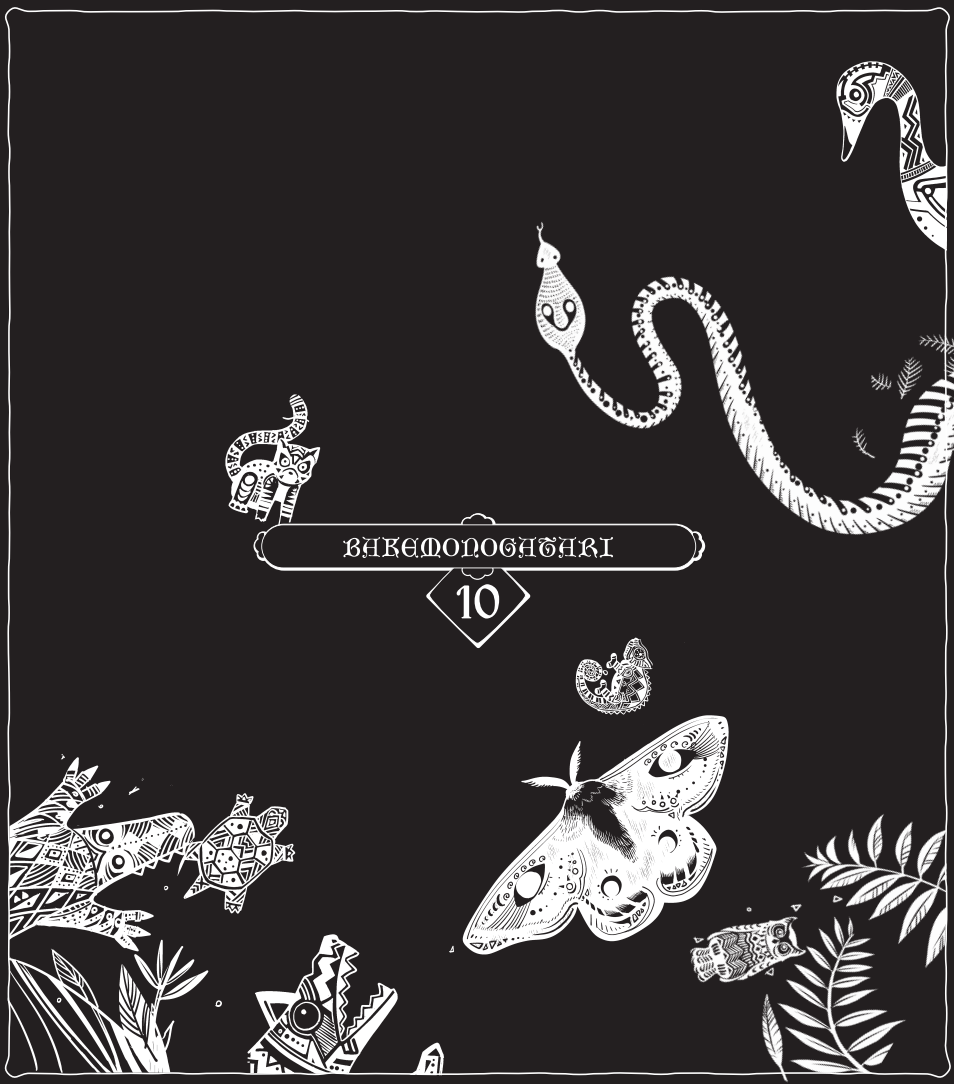
TWITCH
...!!
TWITCH
How far is he—about 60 feet away?
SST
It seems you possess both naïve honesty and cunning.
—But that trick will only work once. Not again.
This is bad... If he closes the distance now...
Hm?
...Hold on.

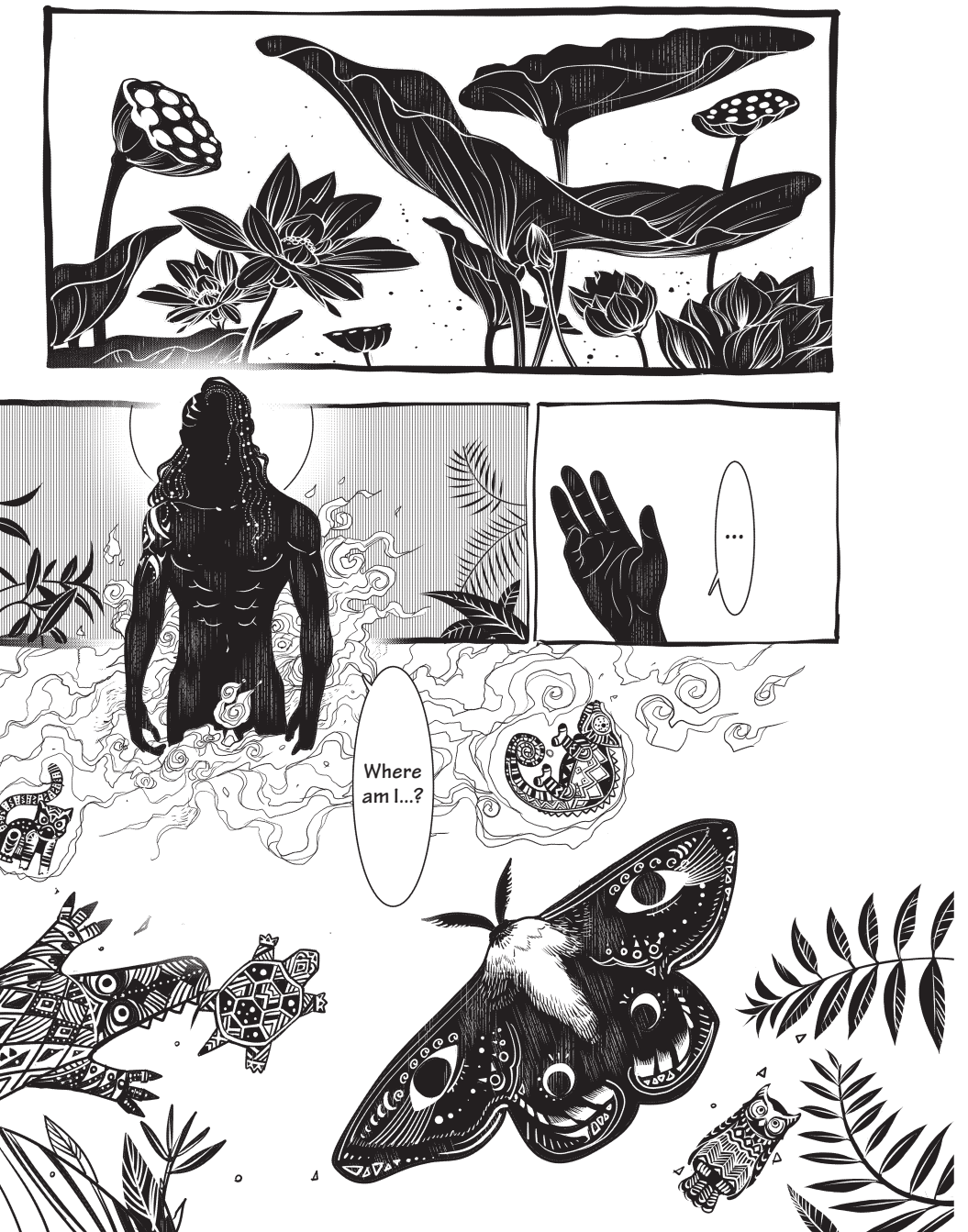
BWOOF
You know, back when I was really young, it was my dream to stand on a major league pitcher's mound someday.
—This is a lie, of course.
Fssht!
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL
KREAK
GA-KLANG
KREAK
GRRRRK
HRMPH!

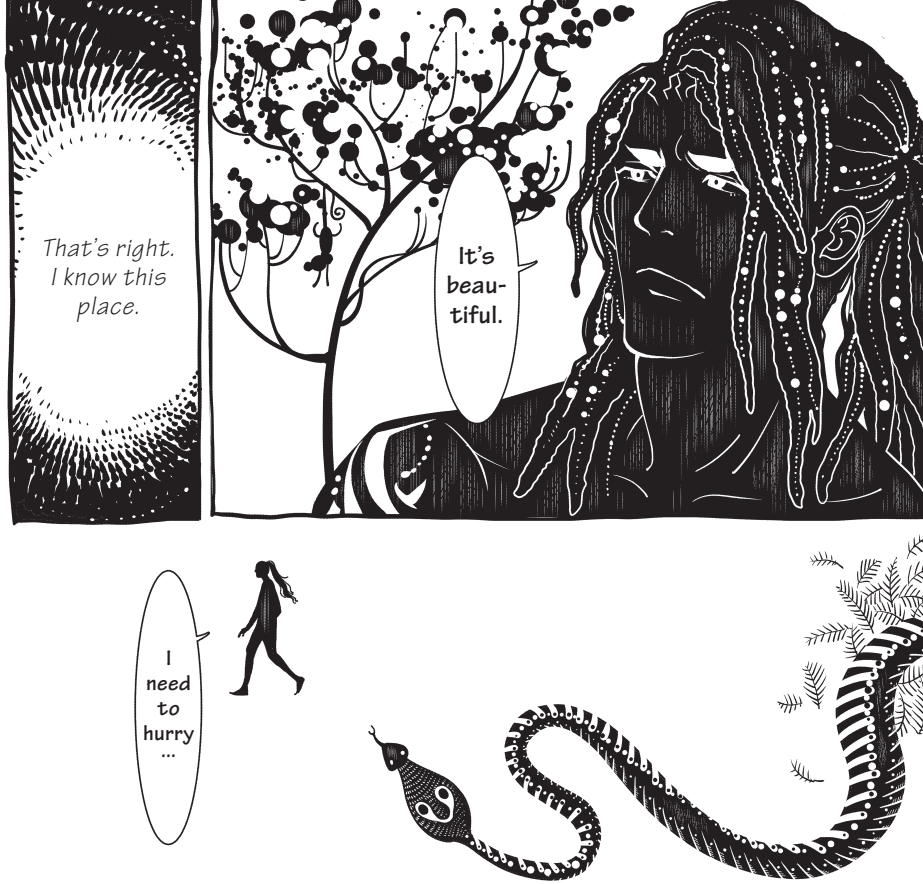
SNAP
POP
SNAP
POP

BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK
BA-KRAK
...!
Gah...!
BOOM
THNK
THNK
Some-thing popped out?
It... pene-trated ...
The shock-wave... alone...
Hm?
It worked ?


BAKEMONOGATARI


ВАКЕМОЛООНЄНАКІ
10


...
Where am I...?


That's right. I know this place.
It's beautiful.
I need to hurry...

Zusweil's Demon is coming...
The demon...

Nguyen.
Dramaturgy?!
What's wrong? Why are you here?!
I was worried about you, Nguyen.
Have you forgotten, Dramaturgy?
The demon is gone now.
Zusweil is dead.
You defeated it.
GROOOOOOAR
Then...
... why do you cry?
...
Nguyen?

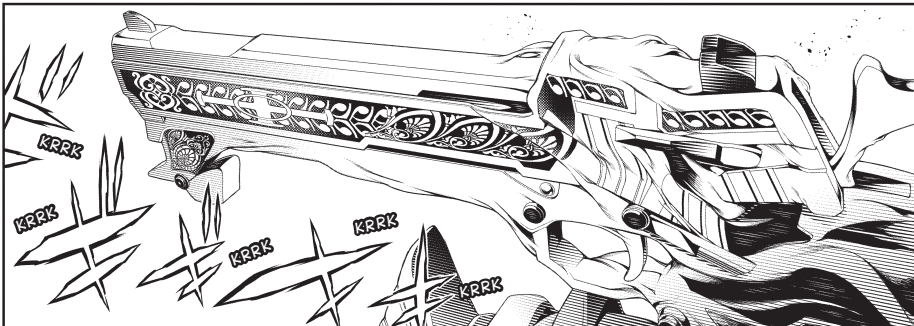
GROOAR
You shouldn't be here, Dramaturgy.
After all.
I'm already ...
BOOM

Nguyen!!!
BOOM
AH
?!!
ZAKK

KABOOM
Dammit! I had such a huge target, too...!
Maybe I used up all my beginner's luck.
I nearly had an entire basket of balls.
...
ZAKK
But I guess my control was balls too.
It seems that for a moment...
...I'd taken a trip to heaven.
UGH

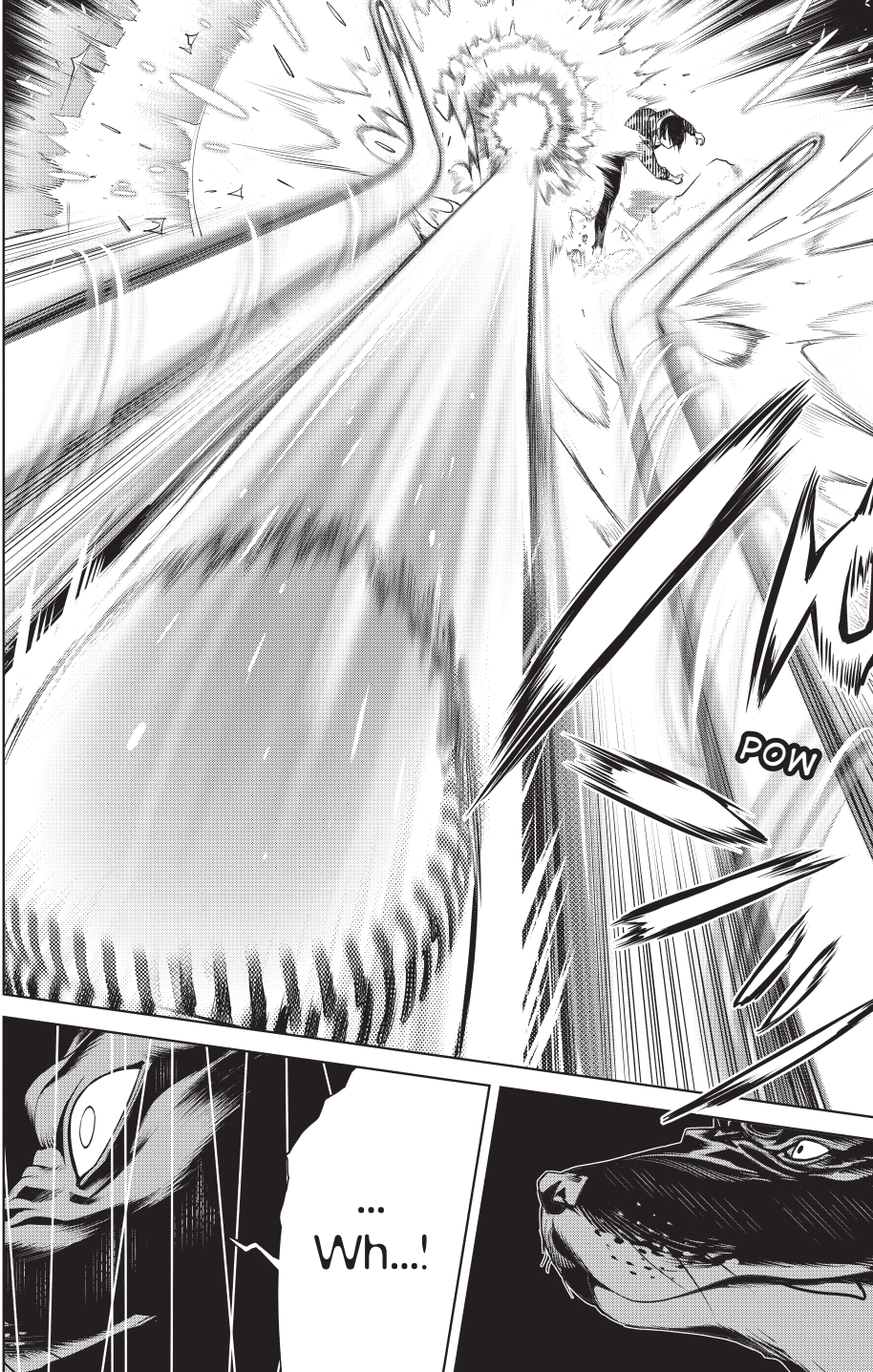
They have the beat of a warrior. They're songs of battle.
The flame that burns in your body down to the marrow of your bones gives meaning to that melody.
I love your songs, Dramaturgy.
...?!
I have a dream.
...just as you saved me that day.
It is my hope that your songs will save many people...

But now is not the time for that tale.

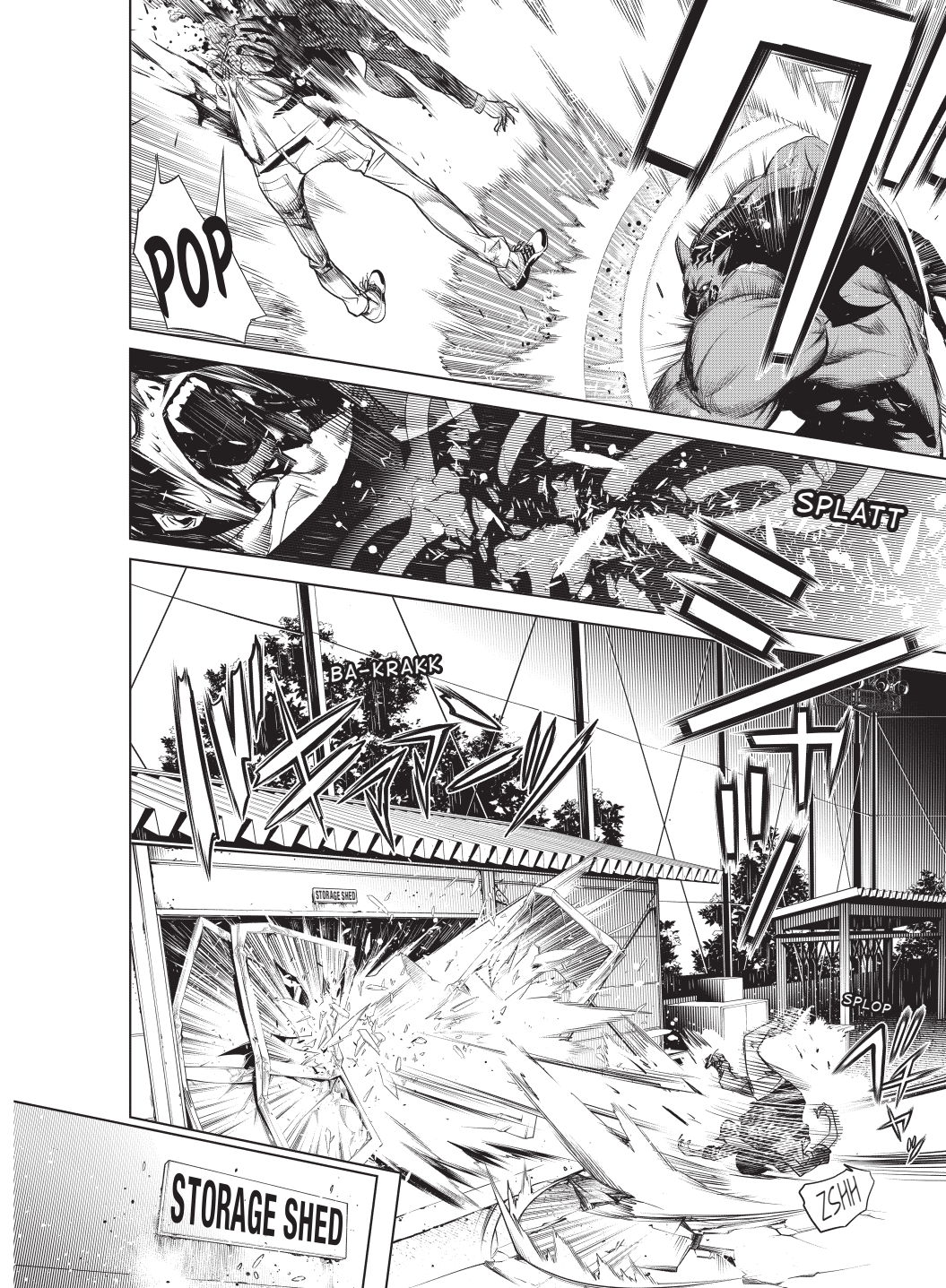

KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK
KRRK

CHKK
Now I've still got a lot of fighting spirit left in me.
THK
THK
Someday, when this is all sorted out.
...you've got a story. I'll listen to it... someday.
...
Seems like...
But right now, I'm too preoccupied with my own problems.
SKRRRK

BOOM


POW
...
Wh...!

GRROWL
VZZT
NGH?!

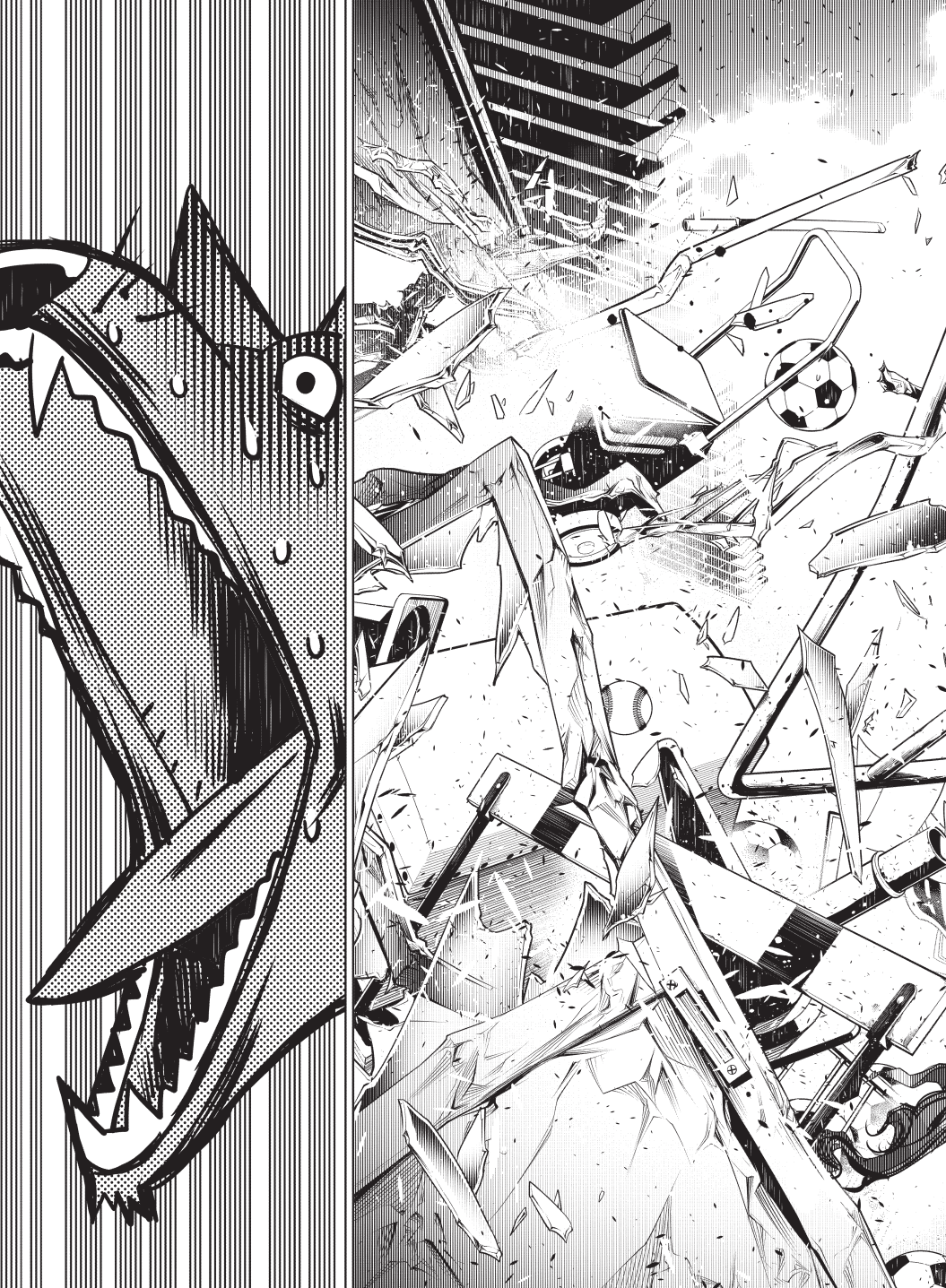

POP
SPLATT
BA-KRAKK
STORAGE SHED
SPLOP
ZSHH
STORAGE SHED

I am weak!!!
That is why... I need them!!!
I need power-ful allies!!!
CHOMP

Graagh!
BWOOMP
GRAB
BWOOF
SKRAKKL
POP
ZSSHH
BOOM
GSSHKK

HIGASHI
16LBS
...How dare you....!

CRASH



THWOOMP
FWOOSH
Nnnn-
ngh...!

SET
BAKEMONOGATARI

AAA
AAA

AAHAH
THWOOM

?!!
SST
THWOOSH
HISSSS
PHEW
I surrender.

...
CRASHER

Umm...

Would you be satisfied, then, if I said this?

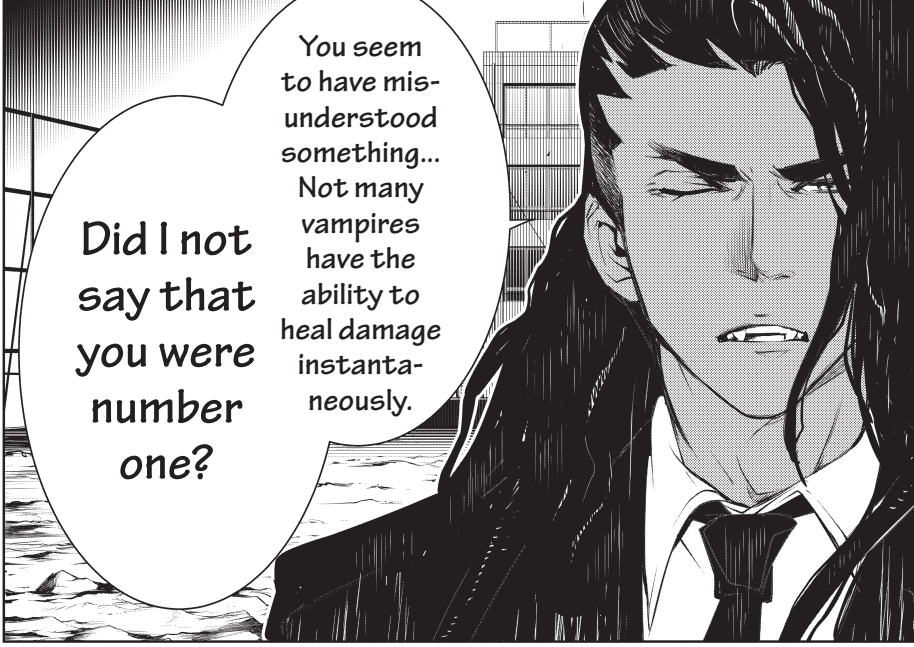
I will never lay my hands on you again.

Please spare my life.
Mgh!
CRASHER
I can-not...
...die just yet.

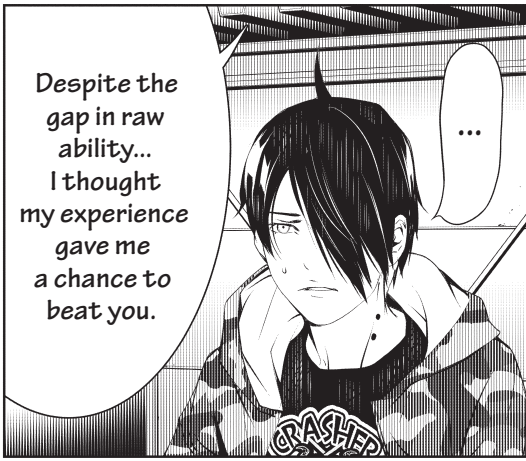
Smashed with that thing, with your strength, the damage would be tremendous— it would take me two full days to regenerate.

No... That would be optimistic ...

—Huh?

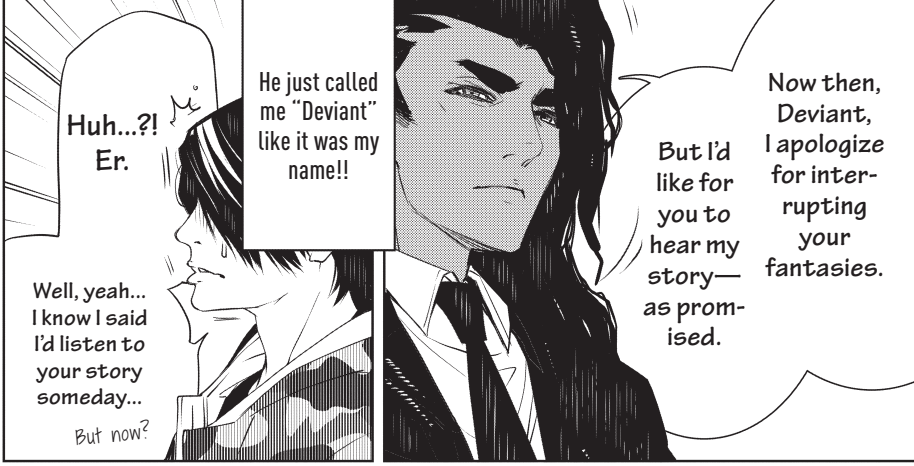

You seem to have misunderstood something... Not many vampires have the ability to heal damage instantaneously.
Did I not say that you were number one?

You'll give me back Kiss-Shot's right arm, right?
Of course. That was the promise.
PAT
PAT

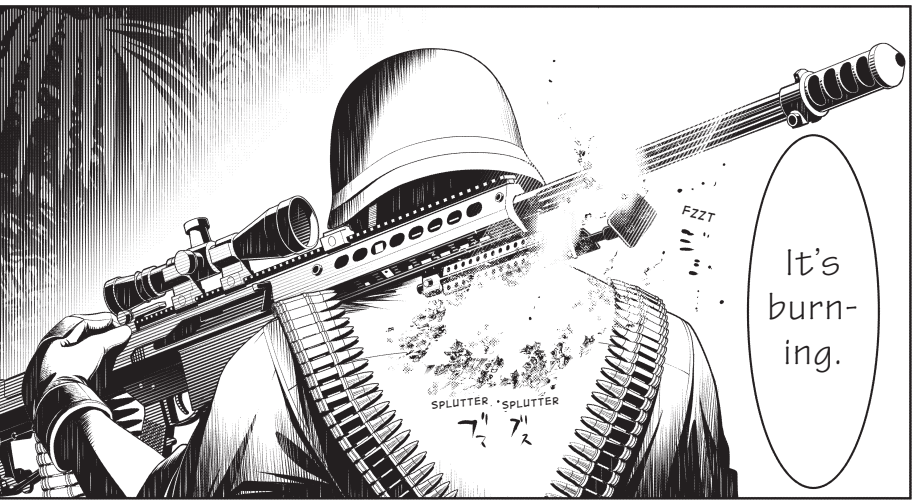

...
Despite the gap in raw ability... I thought my experience gave me a chance to beat you.
CRASH

No.
I can't let my guard down yet.
Is... Is that what's going on?

...Mmh.
...
I guess that's what it means... to be a professional.
It's now being stored in a certain location.
I'll have that shady-looking man hand it over to you at once.
Got her right arm!!
...is part of his job.
Ending this now, while we're both still in good shape...
—I bet Kiss-Shot's going to be so happy...
HERE IS THY REWARD.
EXCELLENT JOB, SERVANT.
FWSH

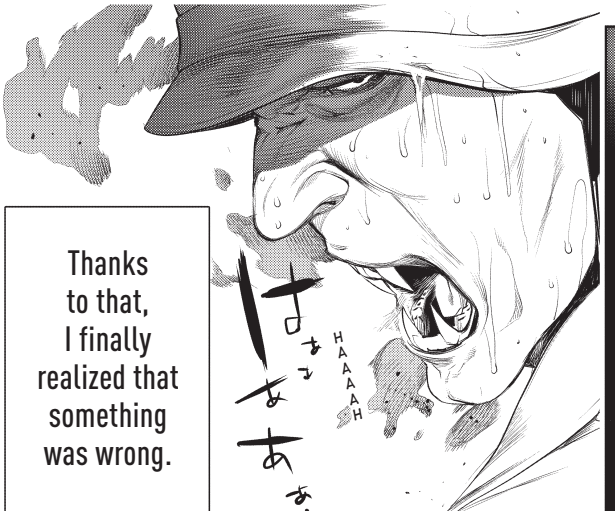

Huh...?! Er.
He just called me "Deviant" like it was my name!!
Well, yeah... I know I said I'd listen to your story someday...
But now?
Now then, Deviant, I apologize for interrupting your fantasies.
But I'd like for you to hear my story— as promised.

YOU CAN'T JUST START A FLASHBACK NOW!
NO, YOU NEED TO BE LISTENING TO ME! NO ONE ASKED FOR THIS!
—It happened long ago.
A three-day-long squall that was a 50-50 mix of rain and Agent Orange.
That's when I told my commander.



It was as dark as night in the jungle as the squall fell...

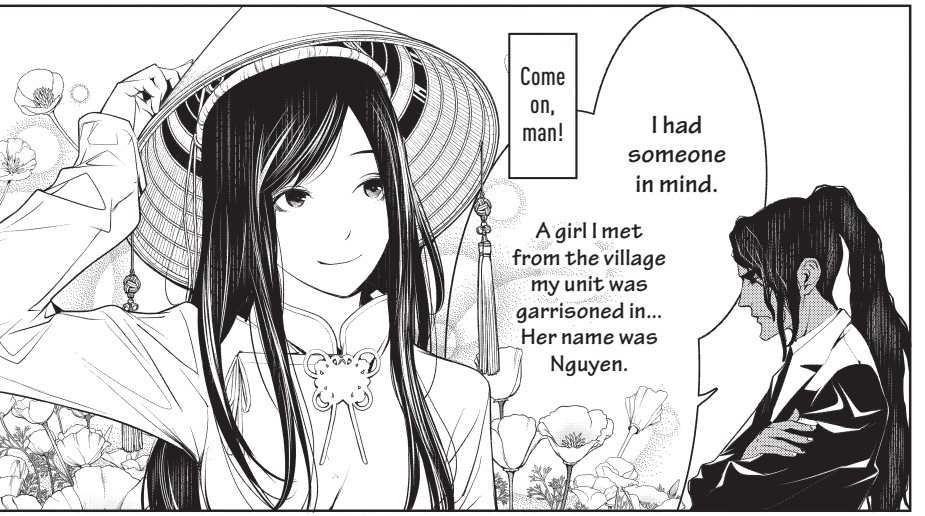
Still, the sun's weak beams found their way in from time to time.

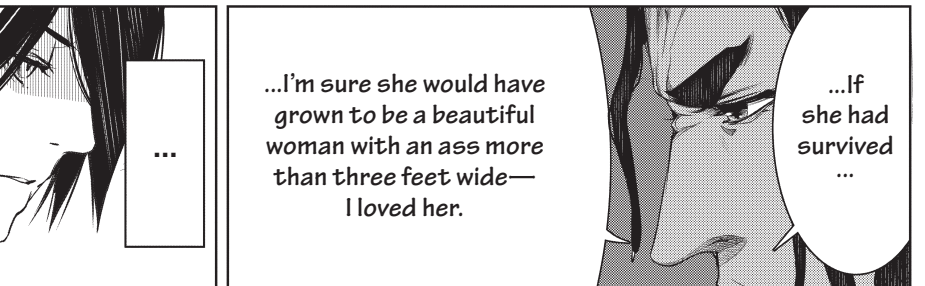


Thanks to that, I finally realized that something was wrong.

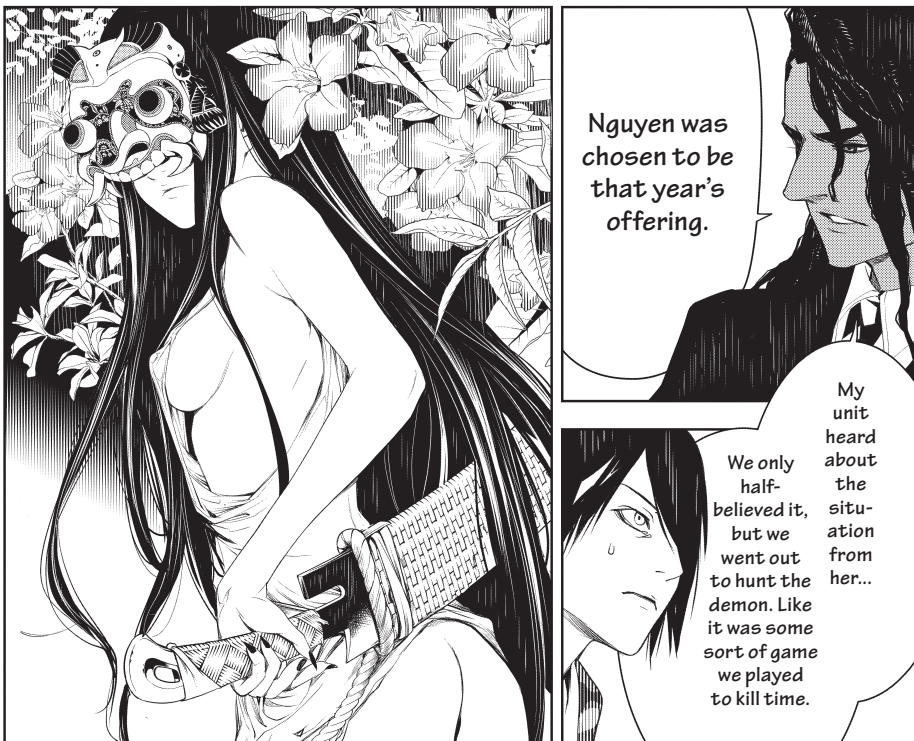
HAAAH
My whole unit...
ZSSHK
...had been turned into vam-pires.

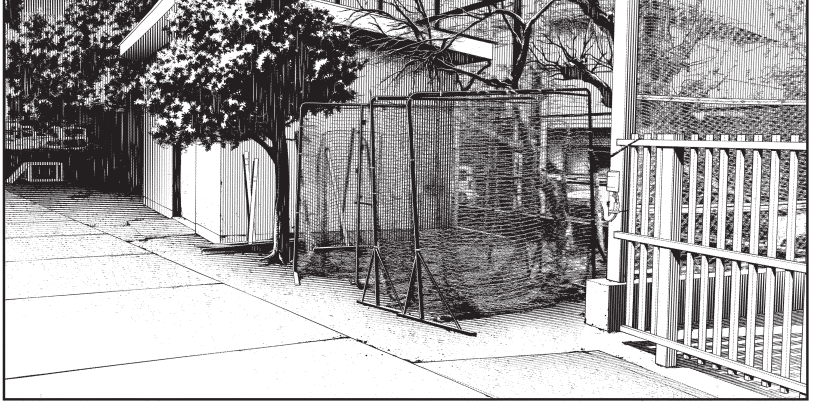
I fought my former comrades-in-arms—
and killed them all.
...But I, too, was bitten and turned into a vampire in the process.
Man, that's heavy.
Out of nowhere, too... Oof!
Uh... Hey... Listen, I'm just a regular high schooler ...
How do I put this... I'm not really in a place to hear all this from you...


I had someone in mind.
Come on, man!
A girl I met from the village my unit was garrisoned in... Her name was Nguyen.

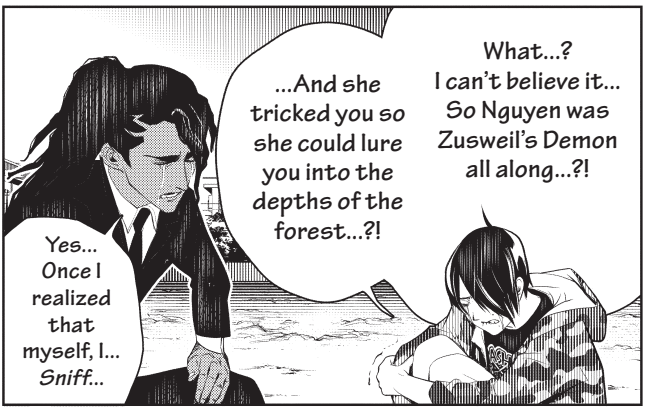

...If she had survived ...
...I'm sure she would have grown to be a beautiful woman with an ass more than three feet wide— I loved her.
...

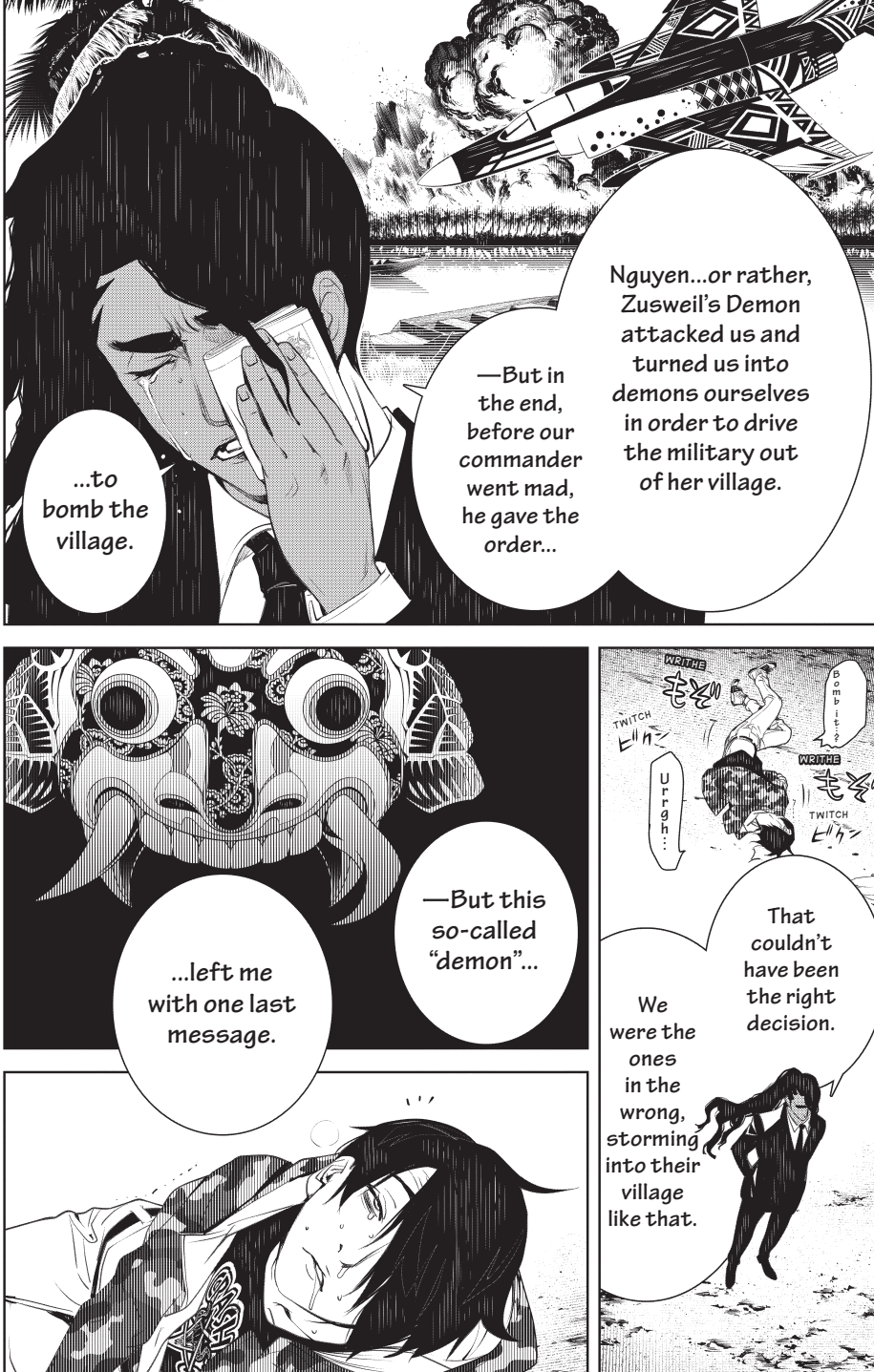
A vampire we called Zusweil's Demon had lived in her village's forest for ages.
Each year, they would offer this demon a human sacrifice.


Nguyen was chosen to be that year's offering.
My unit heard about the situation from her...
We only half-believed it, but we went out to hunt the demon. Like it was some sort of game we played to kill time.



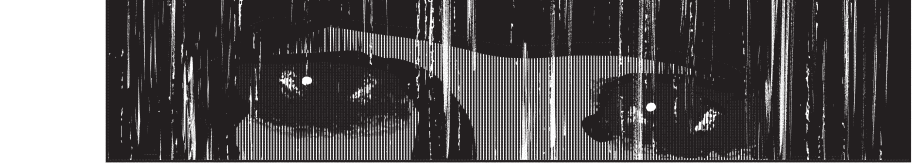
And the reason she did that...was because she didn't want to hurt any more of the villagers she once loved...!

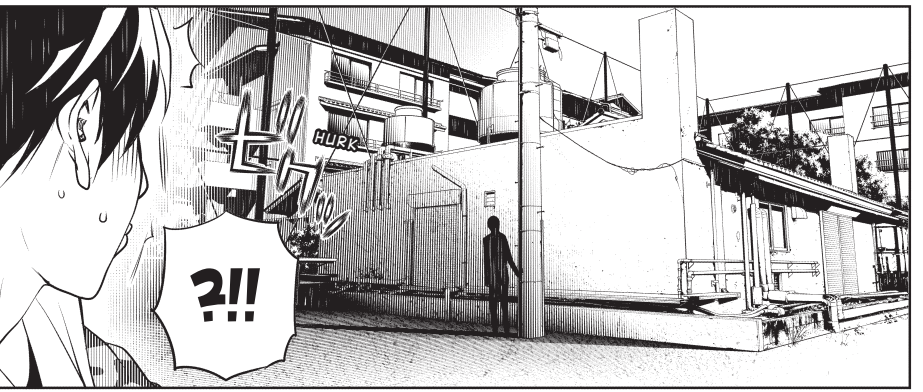

What...? I can't believe it... So Nguyen was Zusweil's Demon all along...?!
...And she tricked you so she could lure you into the depths of the forest...?!
Yes... Once I realized that myself, I... Sniff...


Nguyen...or rather, Zusweil's Demon attacked us and turned us into demons ourselves in order to drive the military out of her village.
—But in the end, before our commander went mad, he gave the order...
...to bomb the village.
—But this so-called "demon"...
...left me with one last message.
WRITHE
もぞ
TWITCH
ビクン
Bombs!?
Urrgh...
That couldn't have been the right decision.
We were the ones in the wrong, storming into their village like that.

Thank you for saving me.
SHHK
That is my story.

I imagine you'll understand what Nguyen meant by the time your mission comes to an end.
Whether you are successful... or not.
I will come to you with another invitation then.
...Did you understand what she meant?
When you heard her... Back then.
I wouldn't be in this line of work if I didn't.
Stay true to your convictions.
PHEW...
What am I going to do about all this...?
It's a mess...
... Hold on.

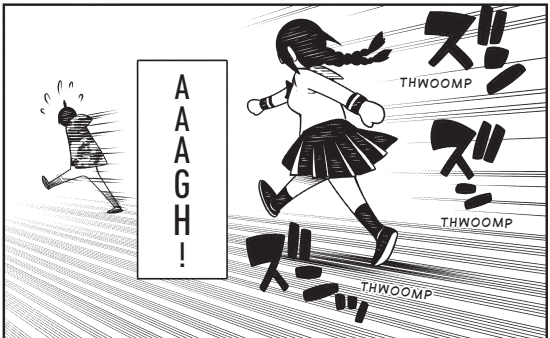



HURK
?!!

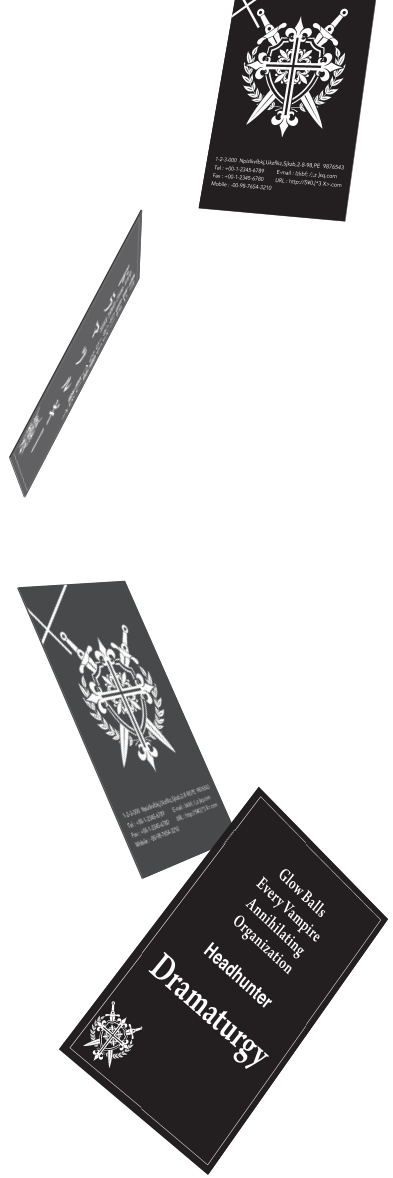
I suppose I could thank him!
Then again, things worked out thanks to that old dude.
Home-field advantage and all...
Oshino !!
Hey, I won!

Oh... So I was being watched all along.
Well, yeah... Of course.
Don't scare me like that...
He was going on about how he's a mediator or an arbitrator or whatever...

THOK
THOK
THOK
THOK
OKAY
THEN.
PAT
PAT


AAAGH!
THWOOMP
THWOOMP
THWOOMP

...
...Hane...

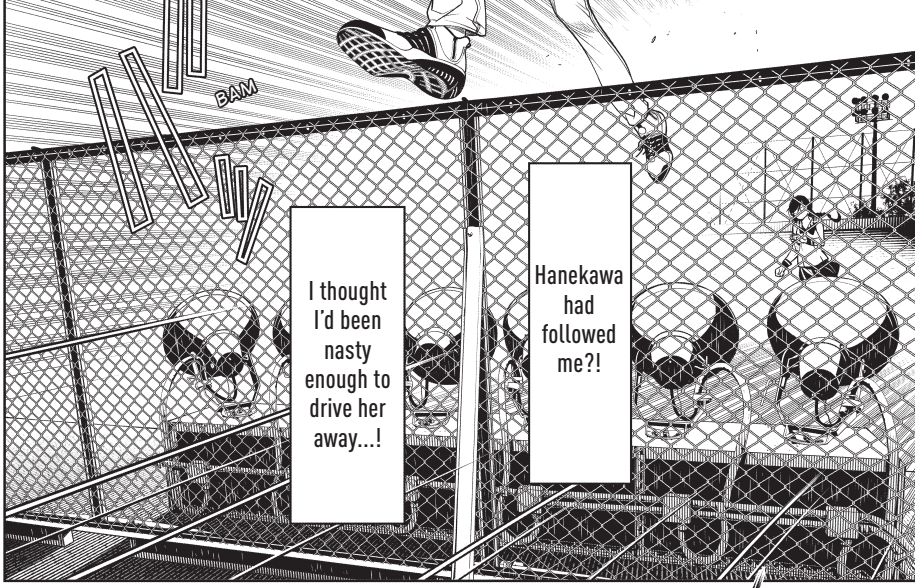


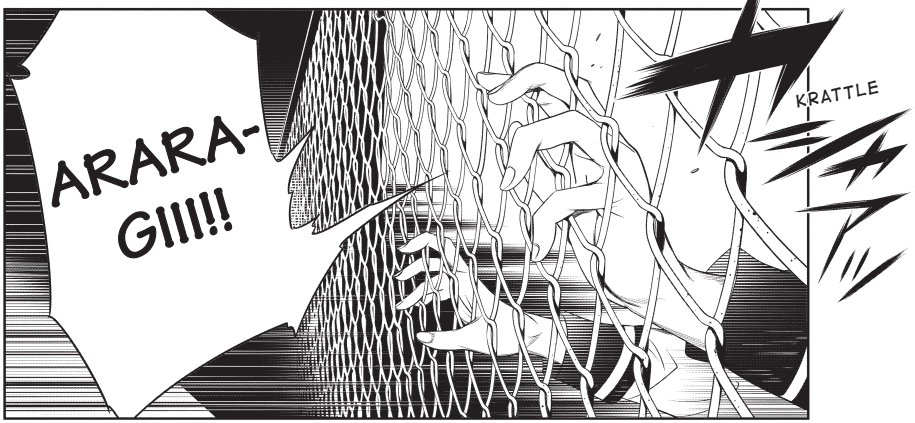
BAKEMONOGATARI 10

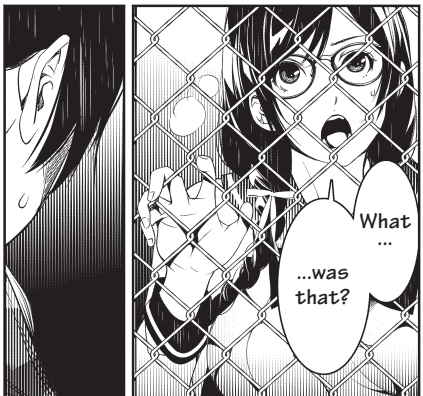
BAKEMONOGATARI 10

ZNOOOOM
ZAKK
ZAKK
ZAKK
ZAKK

EEK


BAM
I thought I'd been nasty enough to drive her away...!
Hanekawa had followed me?!

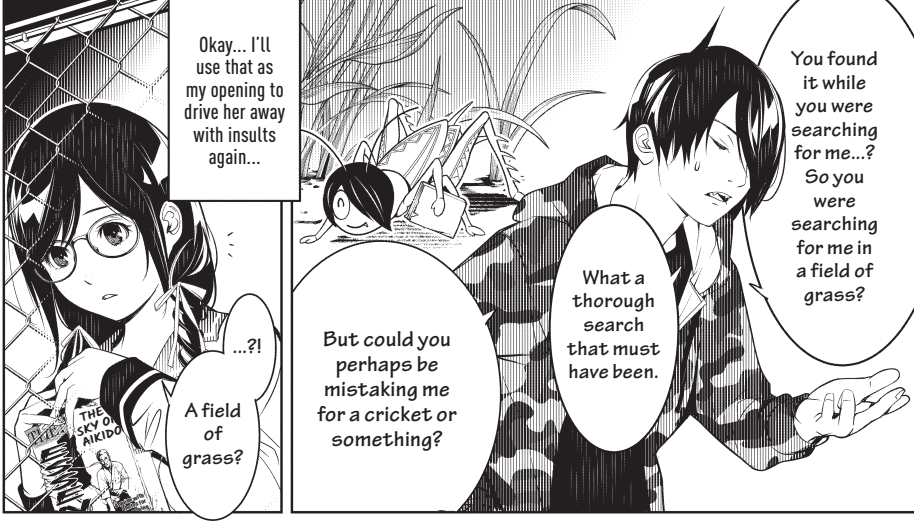

ARARA-GIII!!
KRATTLE

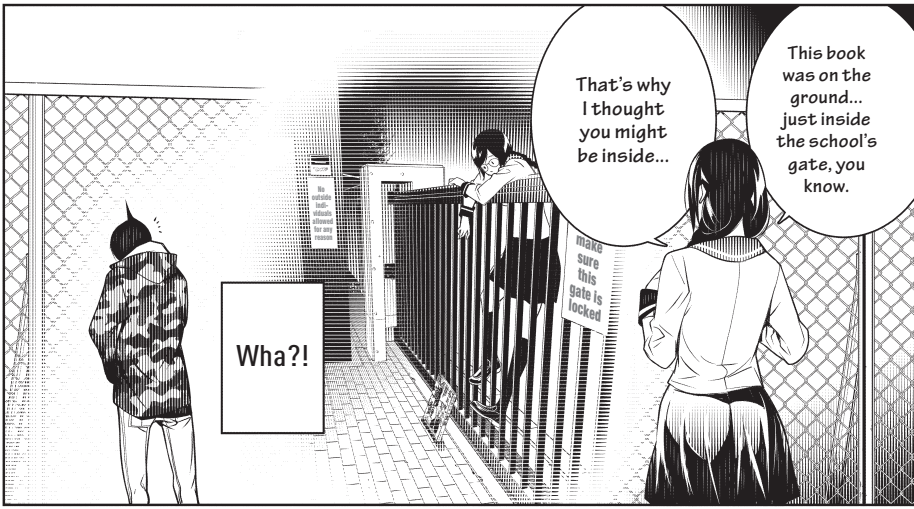

What ...
...was that?

All of that just now, Araragi...
What was it?
...
It's...
...none of your busi-ness.

BAKEMONOGATARI

This book is important to you, right?
This is your book, isn't it?
I was searching for you... and I happened to find it.
Here.
BOING
RUSTLE
THE!! SKY OF AIKIDO
Special on Understanding the True Secrets of Techniques!!
I actually got a glimpse of the cover earlier.
...Now I understand why you read it so many times that it became...a tattered mess like this.
...How do I tell her that it's in tatters because I threw it against a wall...?
TWITCH
TWITCH
And wait...
Where'd she just take that out from...?


Okay... I'll use that as my opening to drive her away with insults again...
...?!
A field of grass?
THE SKY O AIKIDO
But could you perhaps be mistaking me for a cricket or something?
What a thorough search that must have been.
You found it while you were searching for me...? So you were searching for me in a field of grass?

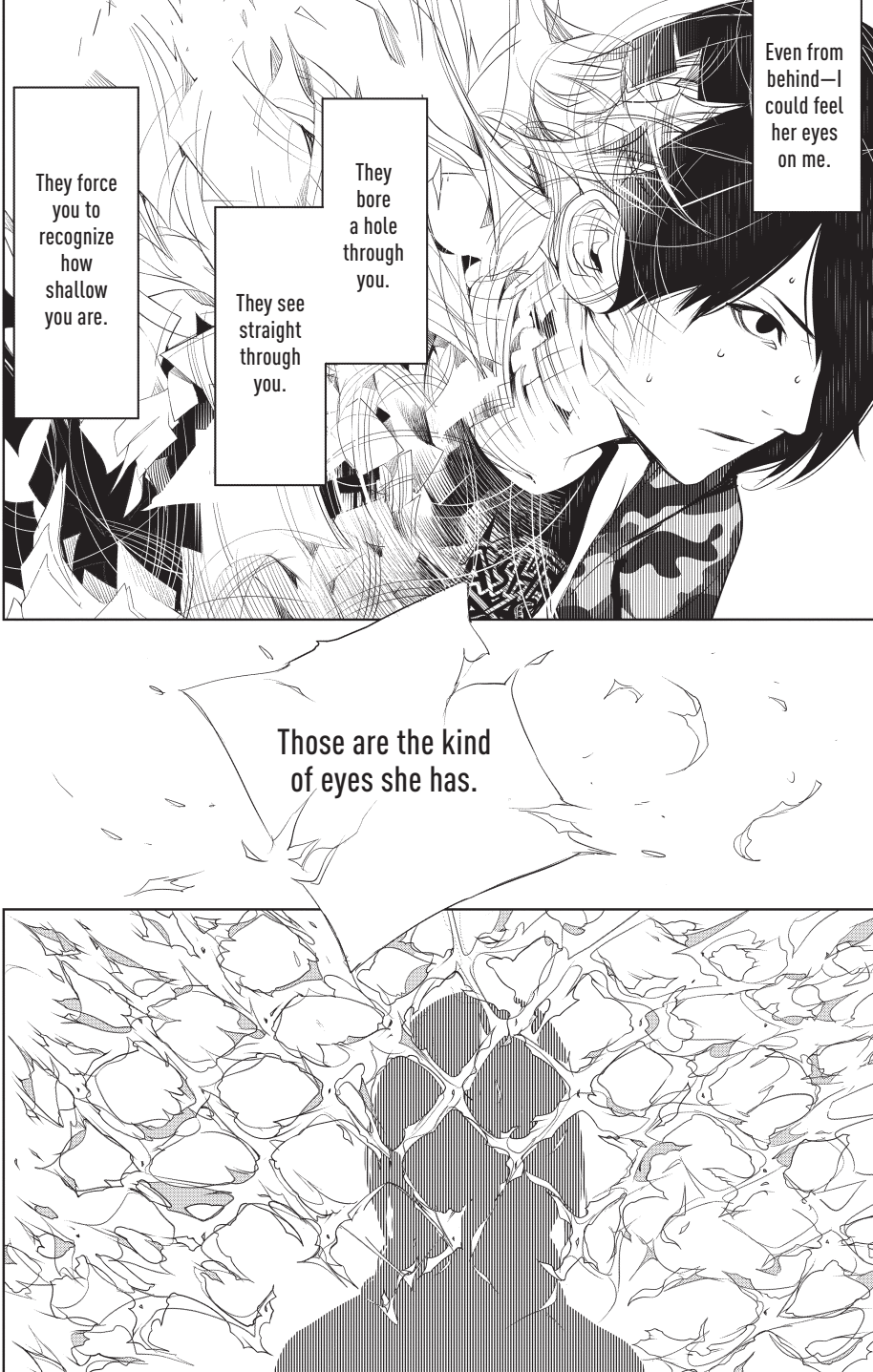

Wha?!
make sure this gate is locked
That's why I thought you might be inside...
This book was on the ground... just inside the school's gate, you know.

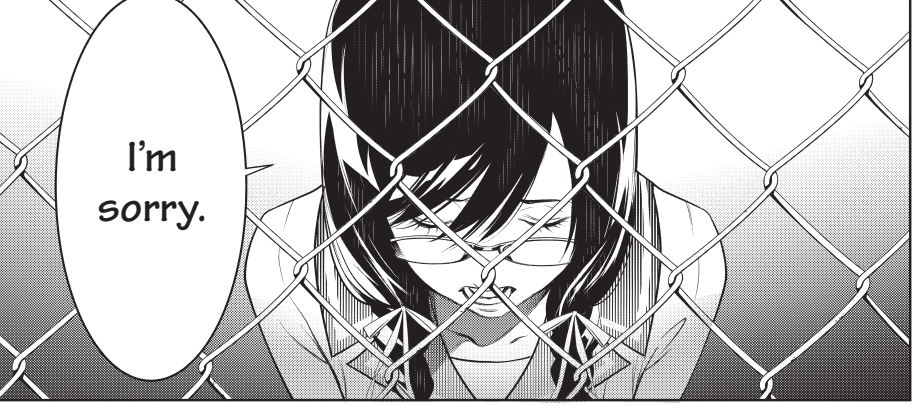
What's going on, then? ...Did someone take that book all the way to the gate?
But I'm certain that I grabbed the wrong book while I was by that vacant lot...
By the gate...?

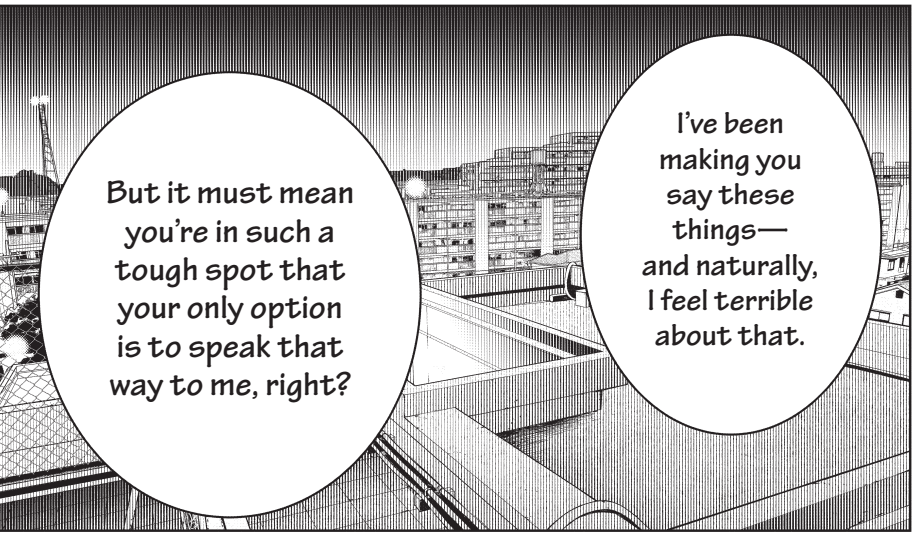
FWOFF
Phew...
There's still some left.
Nice and warm...
...Thank goodness.
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
...Agh!! No, that's not what I should be thinking about right now!!
...! A-Anyway!
Give me back that book! Now! Before it gets lost!!
What? Where's it going to go from here?
Just hand it over already!!
...You're done here now, right? Go home, then.
...
Again.
THE SKY OF AIKIDO
I told you not to follow me around... I don't get it.
Stop pretending to be my friend just so you have an excuse to stick your nose in my business.
I'm going to have to wound...
...this kind and warm creature all over again.

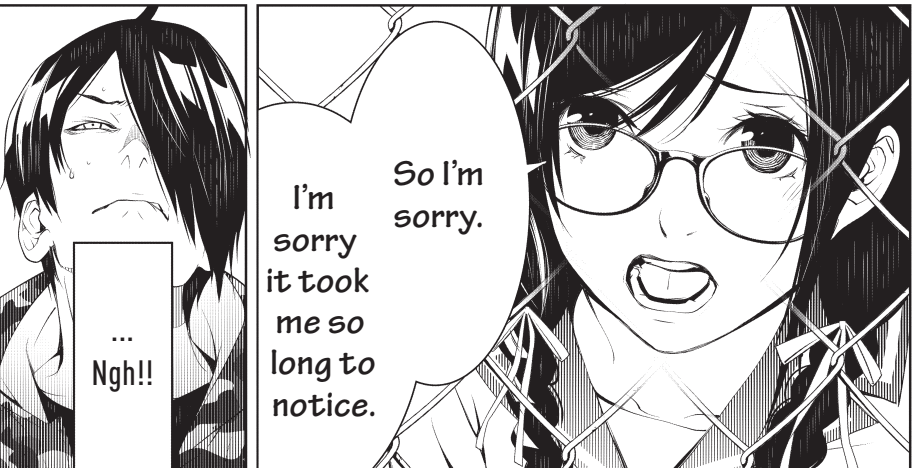
You're not the type to say that kind of thing, are you, Araragi?

THROB
JOLT
Urk.


Even from behind—I could feel her eyes on me.
They bore a hole through you.
They see straight through you.
They force you to recognize how shallow you are.
Those are the kind of eyes she has.

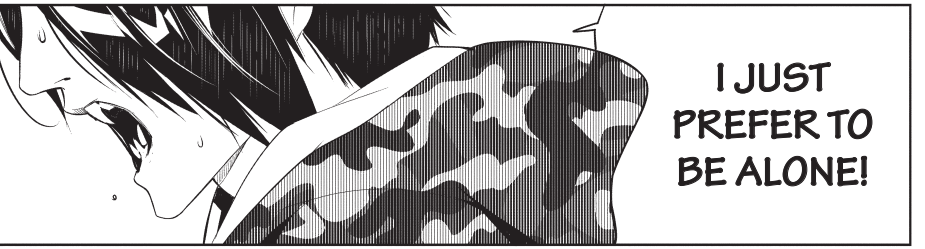

I'm sorry.


I've been making you say these things— and naturally, I feel terrible about that.
But it must mean you're in such a tough spot that your only option is to speak that way to me, right?


So I'm sorry.
I'm sorry it took me so long to notice.
... Ngh!!

If that's the way things are, I...
...want to help.

You...
You're really pushy, you know that?
You're reading into things too much. I was just...
...tired of hanging out with you.


I JUST PREFER TO BE ALONE!

Liar.
You're not a misanthrope or the world-weary type, Araragi.
I can figure that much out. You at least seemed to be having fun when you were talking to me.

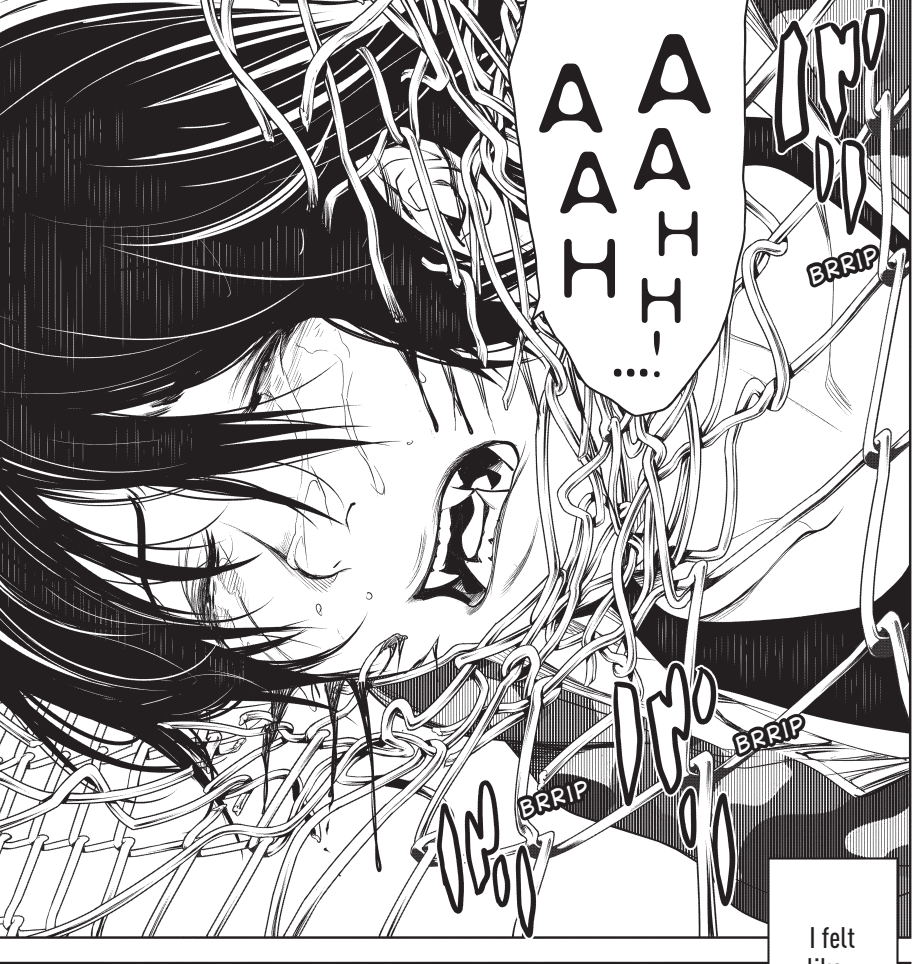
I flubbed that.

NO!!
I'M TELLING YOU I WAS ONLY AFTER YOUR BODY!!
Which is it?!
My toddy or my body?!
YOUR BODY!
FINE THEN, I'LL MAKE UP WITH YOU IF YOU SHOW ME YOUR PANTIES AGAIN!
NHA-AAH!
BAM

...Do you want me to take off my blouse, too?
Is this okay? Can you see them all right?

Aah...

KSSHNK
Now.
For the first time.
Aaah!



I felt like— I was finally meeting Hanekawa.

We weren't passing by each other. We truly met— head-on.

I'm sorry for saying those horrible things.

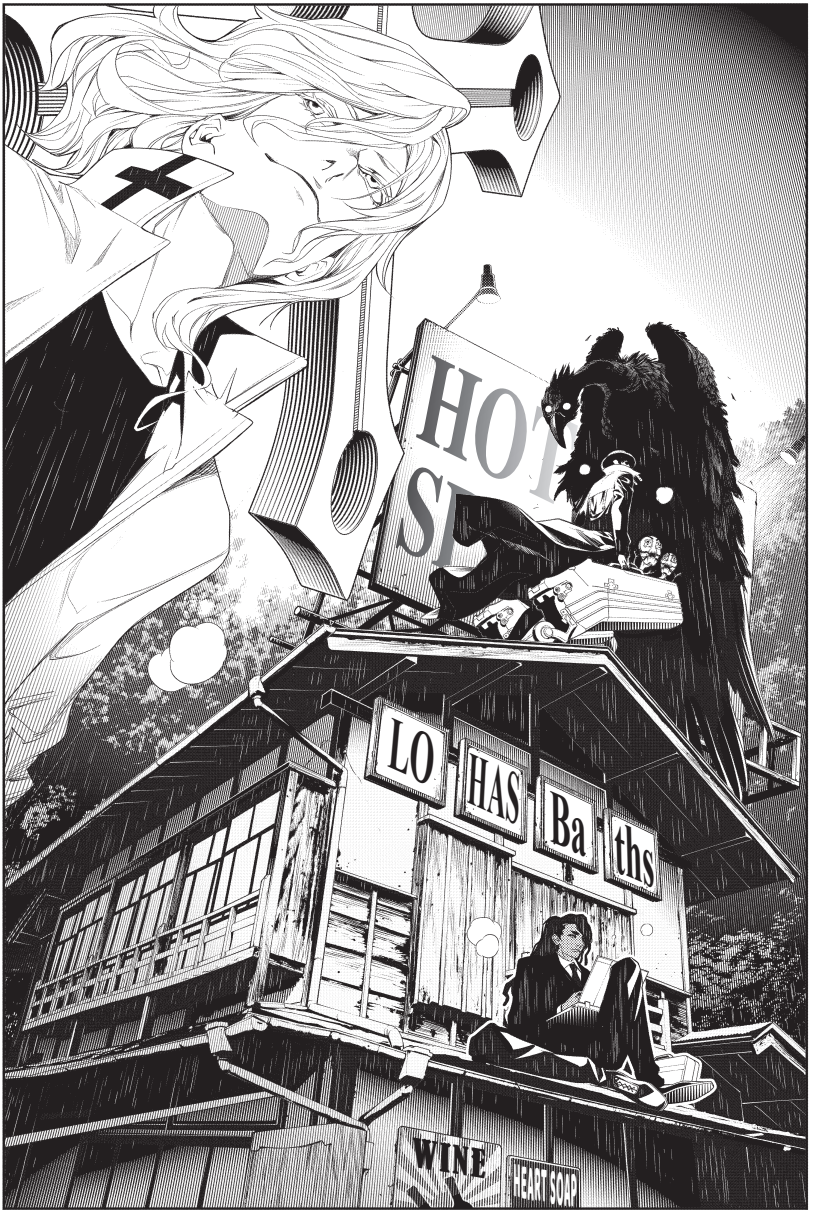
She's a cool person— but that's not all.

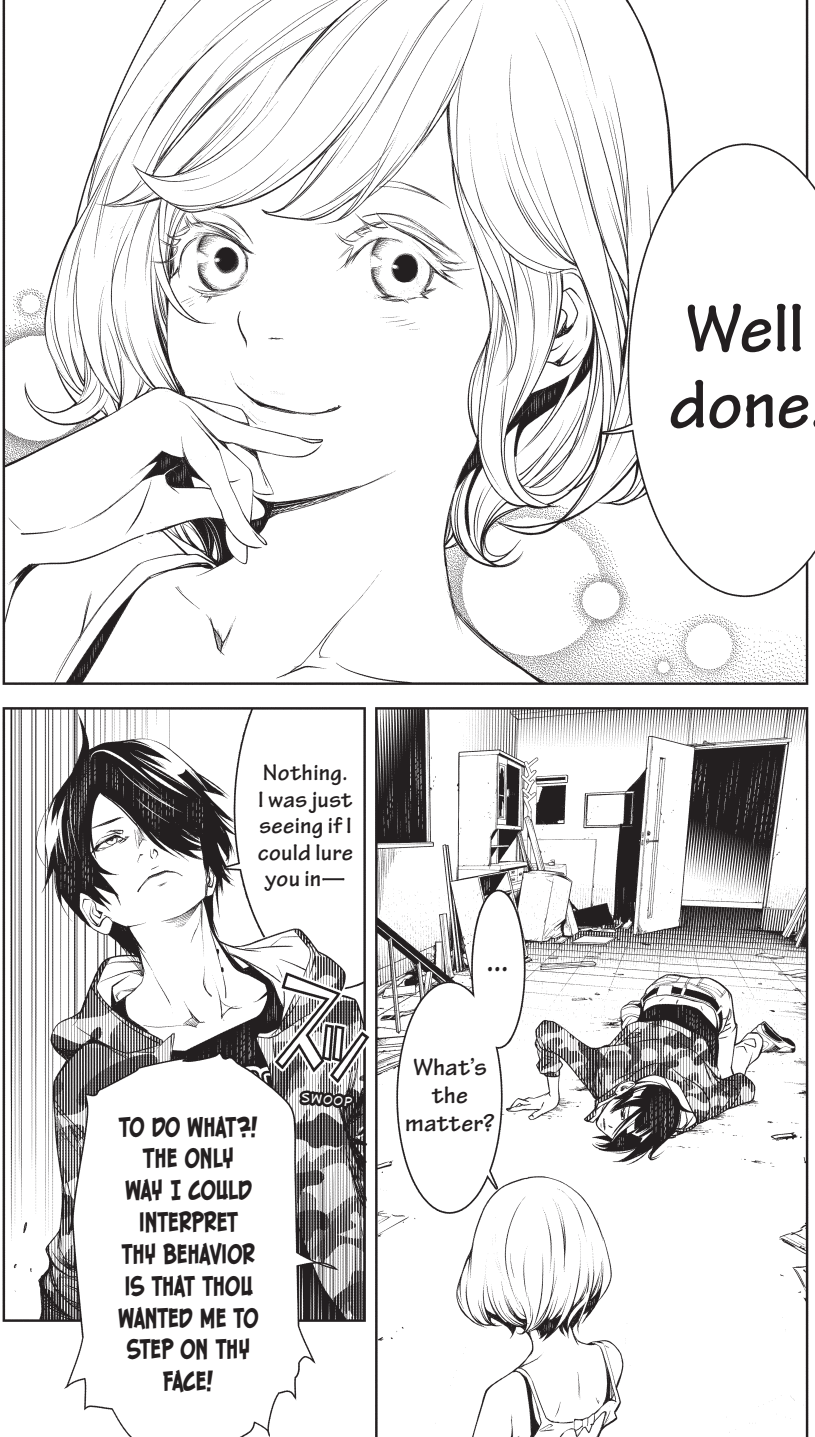
wasn't even in her league.

Someone like me

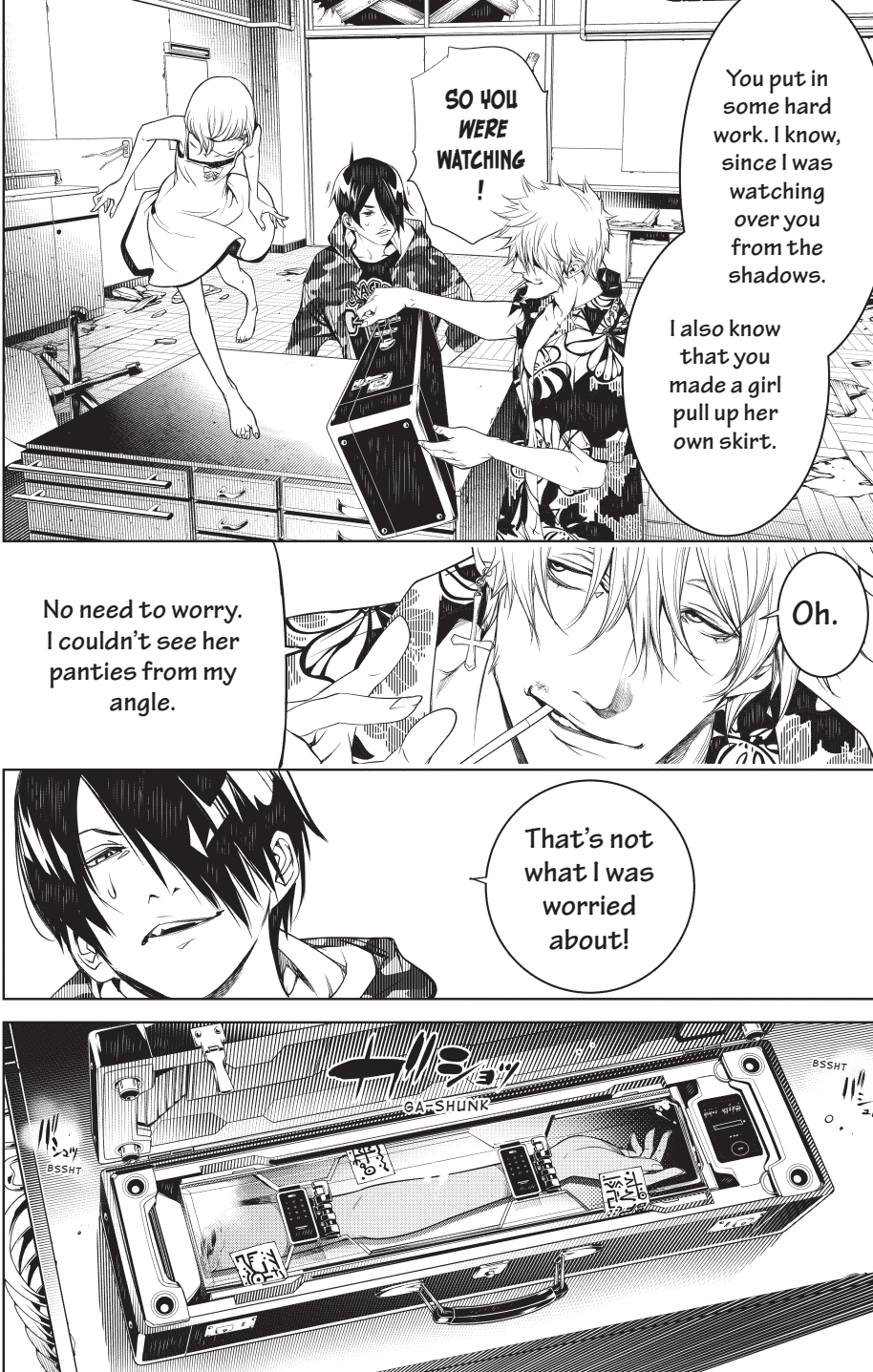
She's a strong person.

BAKEMONOGATARI

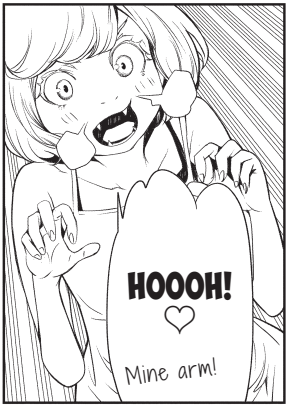


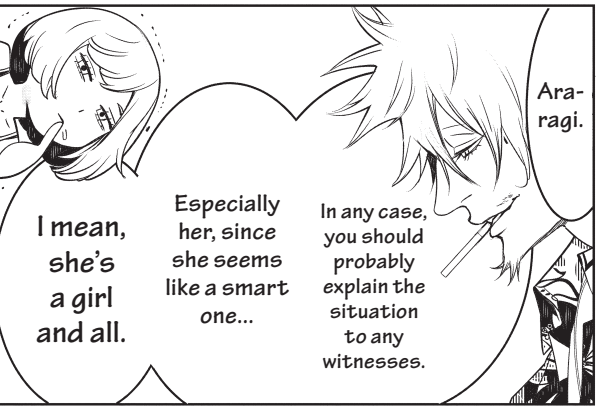

Well done.
Nothing. I was just seeing if I could lure you in—
SWOOP
TO DO WHAT?! THE ONLY WAY I COULD INTERPRET THY BEHAVIOR IS THAT THOU WANTED ME TO STEP ON THY FACE!
...
What's the matter?

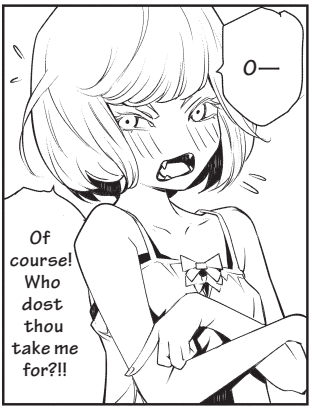
But, of course, I should expect no less of a result from my thrall.
Dramaturgy is an understanding fellow.
...
じっ...
STARE
I guess it goes past "understanding"... he was just a good dude.
Like, straight up.
'Sup.
Ah. The boy has returned.
Welcome back, Oshino.
Your spoils.
THMP THMP THMP
Good job, Araragi.

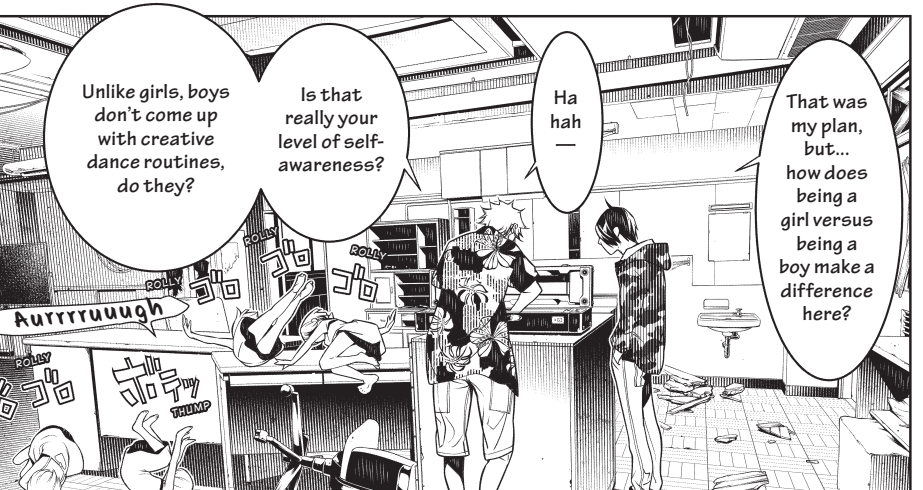

SO YOU WERE WATCHING!
You put in some hard work. I know, since I was watching over you from the shadows.
I also know that you made a girl pull up her own skirt.
Oh.
No need to worry. I couldn't see her panties from my angle.
That's not what I was worried about!
GA-SHUNK
BSSHT
BSSHT

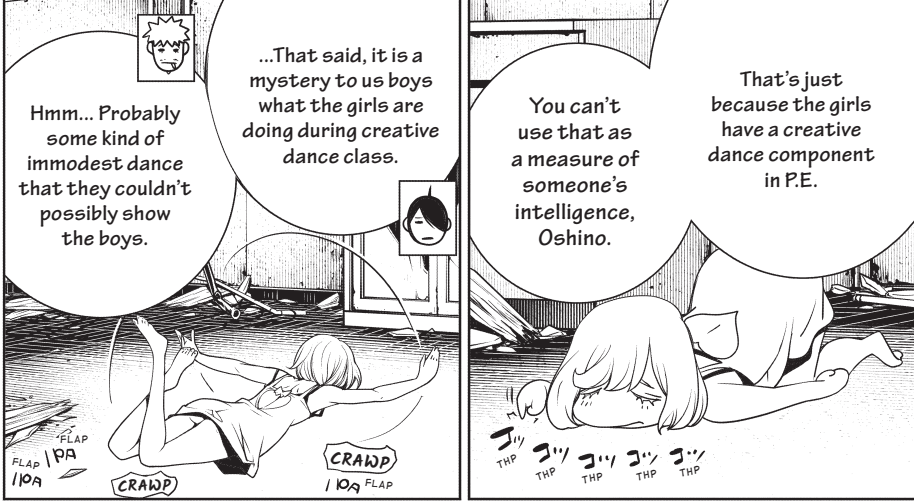
You shouldn't touch it quite yet.
As you can see, it's still bound by a pretty powerful barrier. You can tell, right?


HOOOH!
♡
Mine arm!


Ara-ragi.
In any case, you should probably explain the situation to any witnesses.
Especially her, since she seems like a smart one...
I mean, she's a girl and all.


O—
Of course! Who dost thou take me for?!!


Unlike girls, boys don't come up with creative dance routines, do they?
Is that really your level of self-awareness?
Ha hah —
That was my plan, but... how does being a girl versus being a boy make a difference here?
Aurrrruuugh
ROLLY
ゴロ
ボディッ
THUMP


Hmm... Probably some kind of immodest dance that they couldn't possibly show the boys.
...That said, it is a mystery to us boys what the girls are doing during creative dance class.
You can't use that as a measure of someone's intelligence, Oshino.
That's just because the girls have a creative dance component in P.E.
FLAP
CRAWP
THP

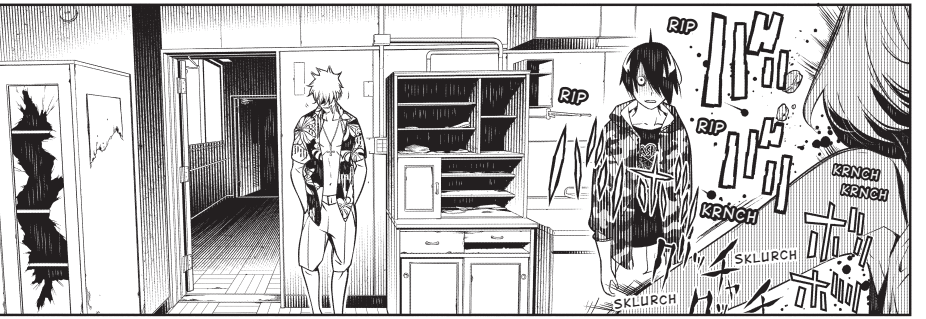
Now you've got me interested.

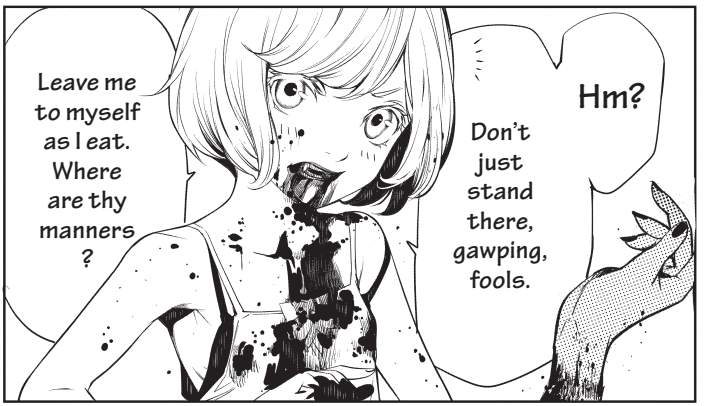
I think it was during health class in middle school...
There's another girls-only thing that's been on my mind.
Since we're on the topic...

I wondered what the girls were learning then.
There were a couple of times where they split up the boys and the girls.
KOFF
—I, uh, don't know what that was.
There are some things even I don't know.
I thought so.
Araragi, that's—
...
Hey, why don't you just ask that Hanekawa girl?
Yeah, makes sense. I'll do that.
A brilliant proposal.
Hm? Maybe this is all in my head,
but I'm sensing a bit of malicious intent in the air...

STILL ?!
It just finished being dispelled.
Here.
What an image...
OOH!
AAAH...!♡
MUNCH

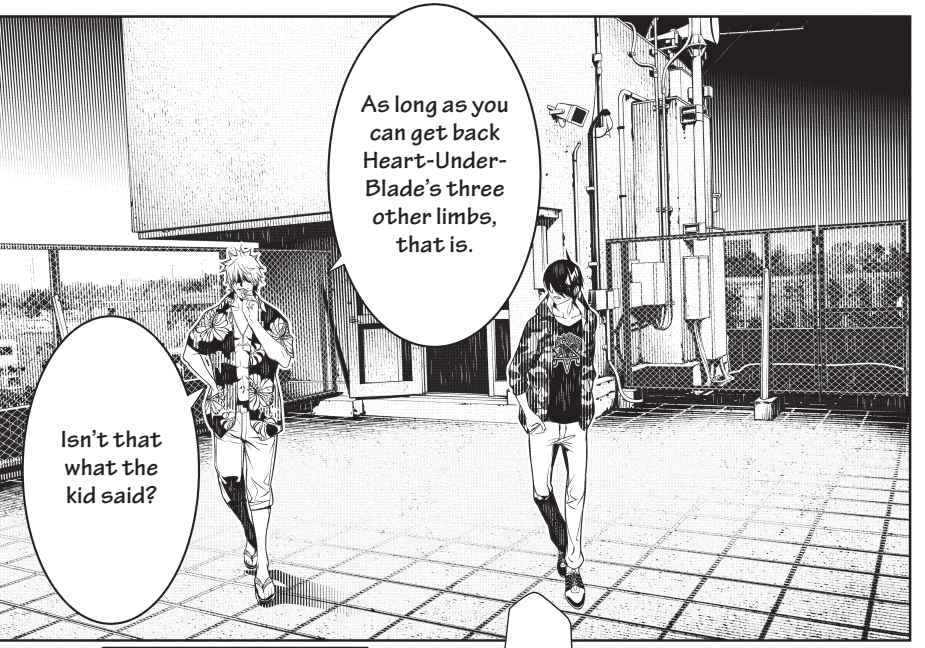
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP


RIP
RIP
RIP
KRNCH
KRNCH
KRNCH
SKLURCH
SKLURCH


Hm?
Don't just stand there, gawping, fools.
Leave me to myself as I eat. Where are thy manners?

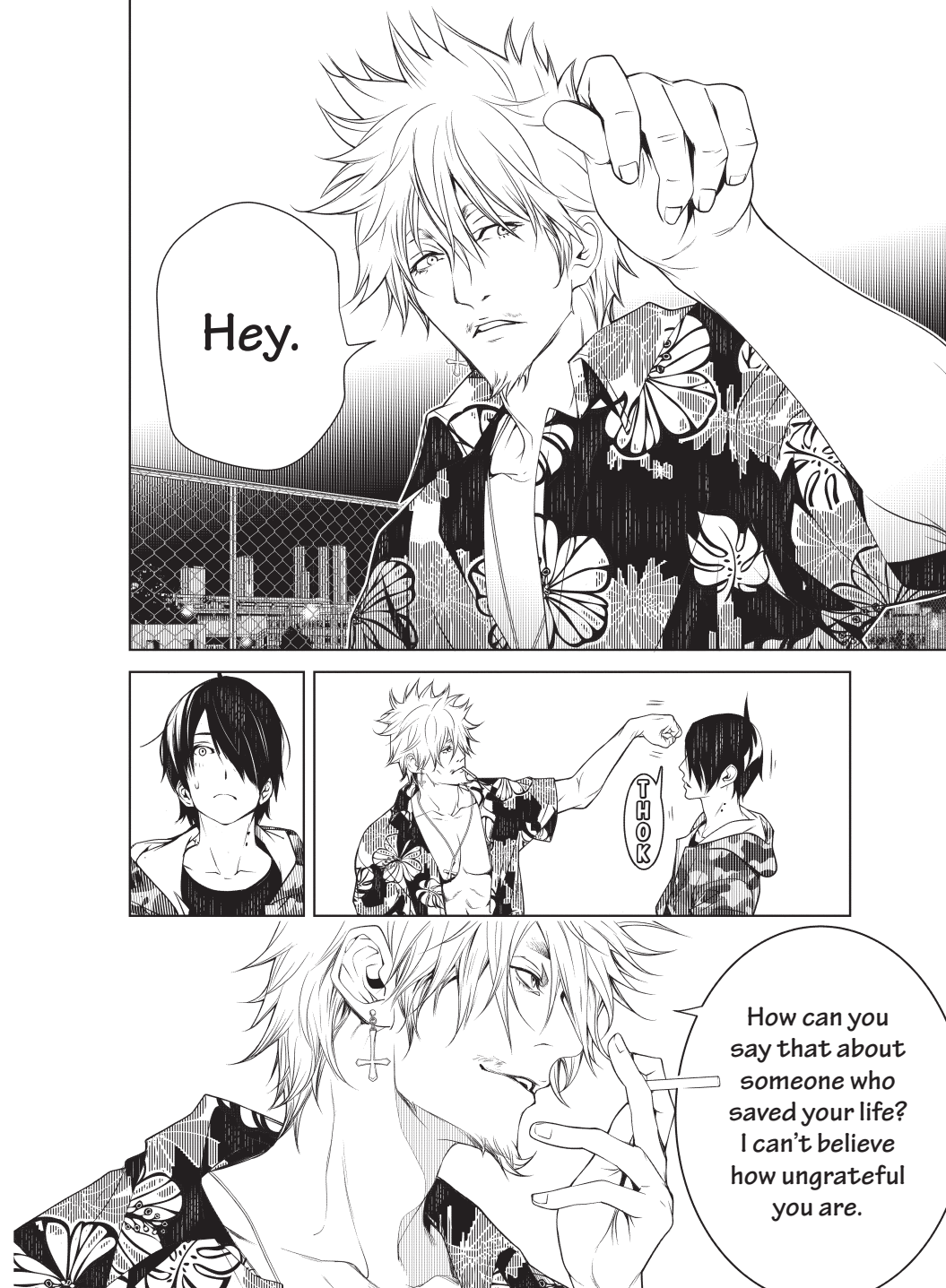
It's not like I wanted to see that, anyway.
...
So that's how she "recovers" ...
Oh...
Hey — Oshino.
There's something I wanted to ask you.
Hm?
Can I...really become human again?

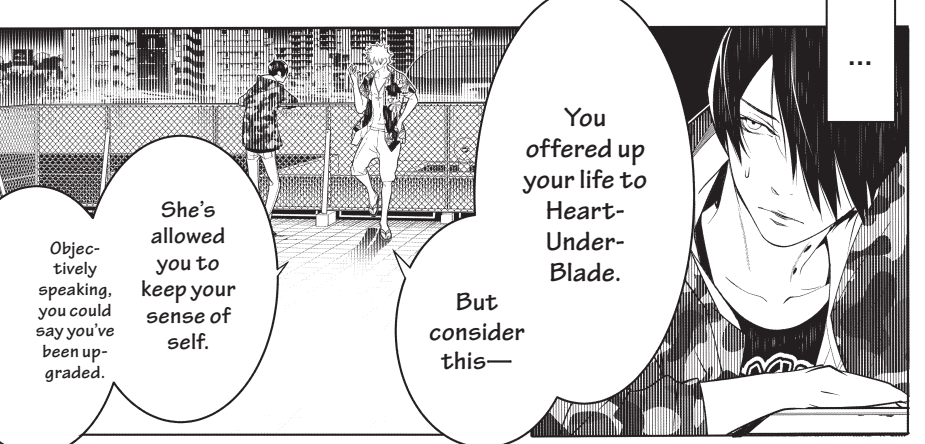
I don't see why not.


As long as you can get back Heart-Under-Blade's three other limbs, that is.
Isn't that what the kid said?

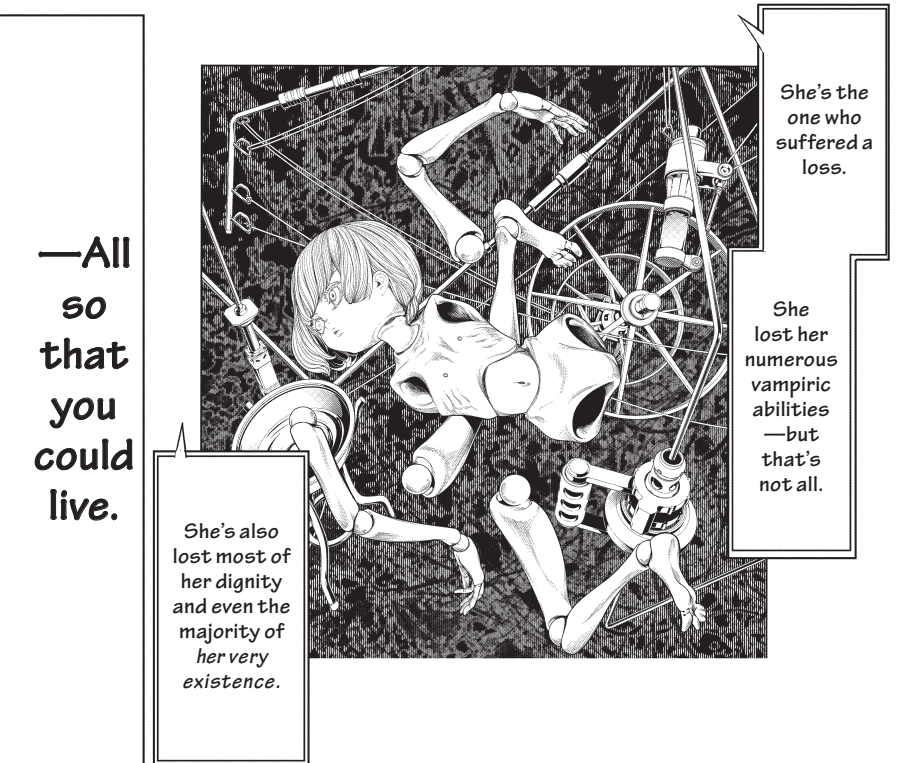
Well, you know.
I was just wonder-ing...
...what if it was... a lie...?

Do not trust that woman, young man—


Hey.
THOK
How can you say that about someone who saved your life? I can't believe how ungrateful you are.


...
You offered up your life to Heart-Under-Blade.
But consider this—
She's allowed you to keep your sense of self.
Objectively speaking, you could say you've been upgraded.

So ultimately ...
...you haven't lost a thing.


—All so that you could live.
She's the one who suffered a loss.
She lost her numerous vampiric abilities—but that's not all.
She's also lost most of her dignity and even the majority of her very existence.

When I happened to pass by you...
...as she struggled to drag you along,
she asked me...
That's what she said.
Will thou please do something to save him?

She didn't say a word...
Hurry
Quickly
...about wanting to be saved herself— you know.
Morning will come
By morning

Th—
Well, I didn't know about that...
A-And anyway, dragging me...?
When she can karate chop through concrete?
That's concrete.

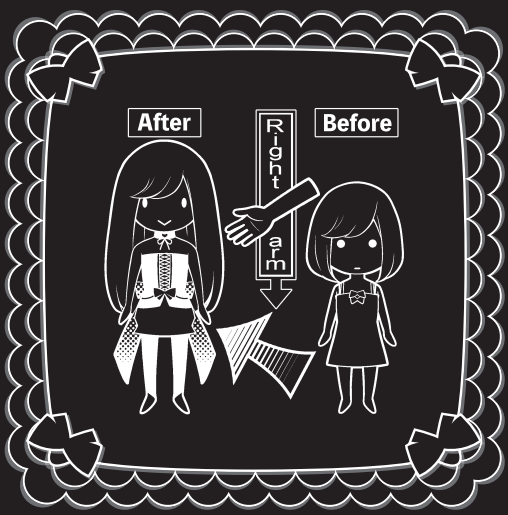
An object's weight is *different for every being.*
To her— you're pretty heavy.
Don't you see that?

...Wh-
Why would that be, though?
I'm nothing more than prey to her.
And the reason she let me live...was so that I could get her limbs back—

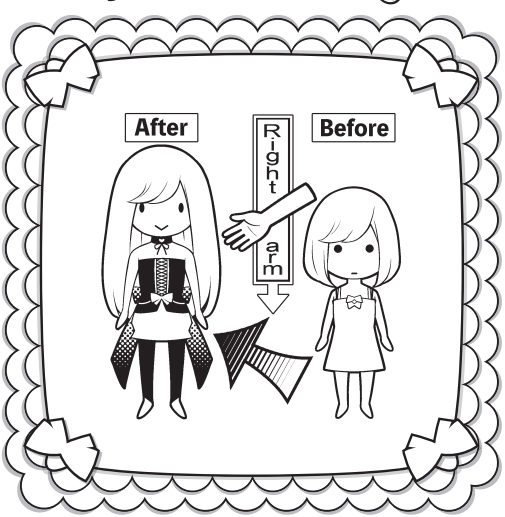
Araragi. Are you telling me—
you still think *you* *became a vampire—by pure chance?*

You playing the victim doesn't sit well with me.
Huh?

BAKEMONOGATARI ⑩

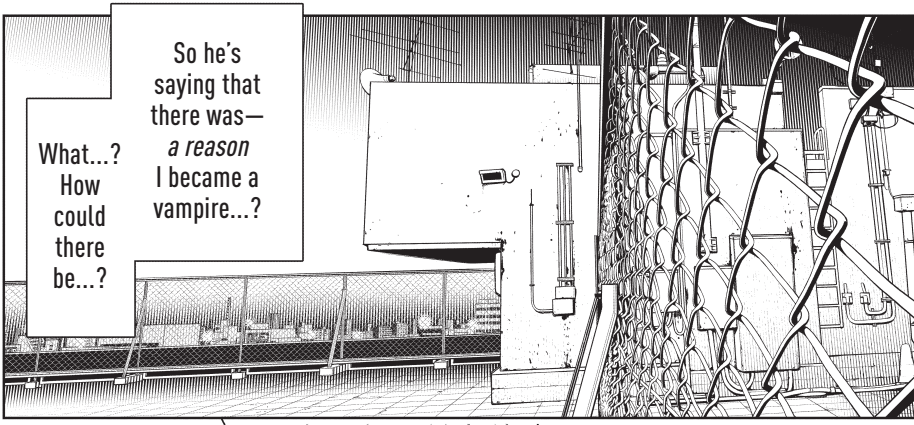


BAKEMONOGATARI ⑩



BAKEMONOGATARI

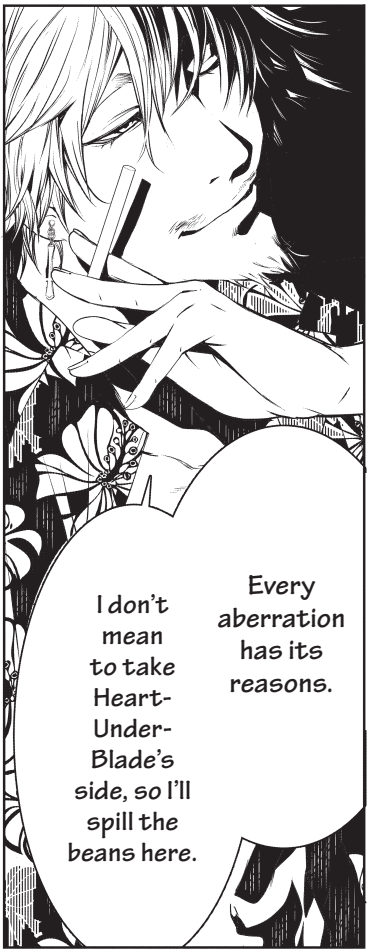
This isn't — by chance ...?
Hold on a second, Oshino ...
I don't care how I sit with you,
but I'm not trying to play the victim here.


What...? How could there be...?
So he's saying that there was— *a reason* I became a vampire...?

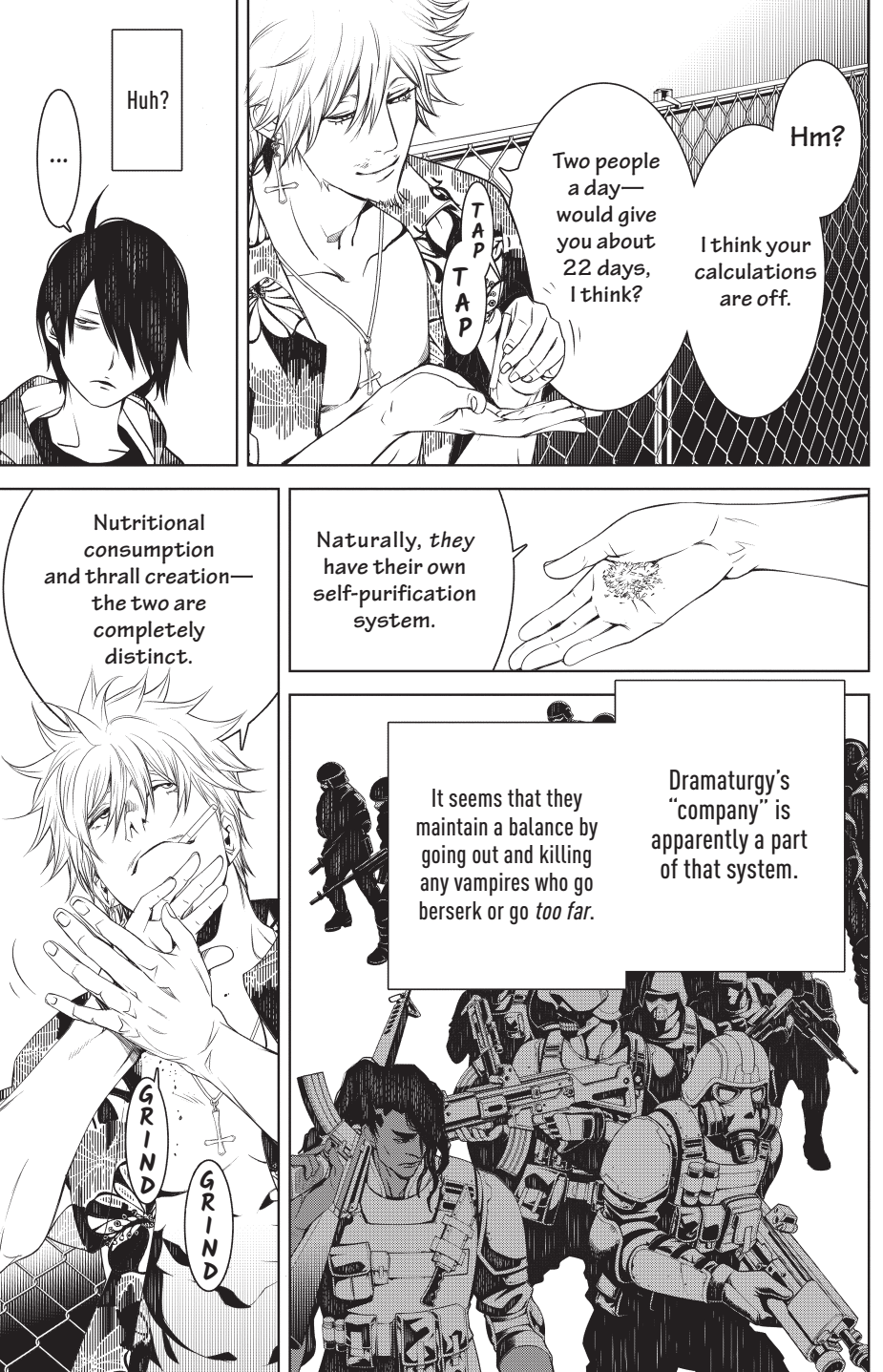
But either way, from my perspective— you're being naivë.
I'll keep it in mind, Araragi.
That's good to hear.

I meant naïve.
HOW DO YOU EVEN MISSPEAK LIKE THAT ?!
Oh.
Oops.
“Naivë”?

ENERGY
MAX
A vampire sucks a human’s blood for two different reasons.
One is to consume nutrients— the other is to create a thrall.


Every aberration has its reasons.
I don’t mean to take Heart-Under-Blade’s side, so I’ll spill the beans here.

What ...?
But I thought that if a vampire sucks your blood... you turn into a vampire no matter what.
No matter what?
Come on, Araragi... How many times over would humanity have been destroyed if that were true?
Now that he mentions it... Yeah, I see what he means.
Um...
If one vampire turned two humans into vampires a day...
If we say n is the number of days, that'd be $1+2^n$=the global population.
2^{32} is around 4.3 billion, so...
Humanity would be wiped out in 33 days and a few hours...


Huh?
...
TAP TAP
Two people a day— would give you about 22 days, I think?
Hm?
I think your calculations are off.
Nutritional consumption and thrall creation— the two are completely distinct.
GRIND
GRIND
Naturally, *they* have their own self-purification system.
It seems that they maintain a balance by going out and killing any vampires who go berserk or go *too far*.
Dramaturgy's "company" is apparently a part of that system.

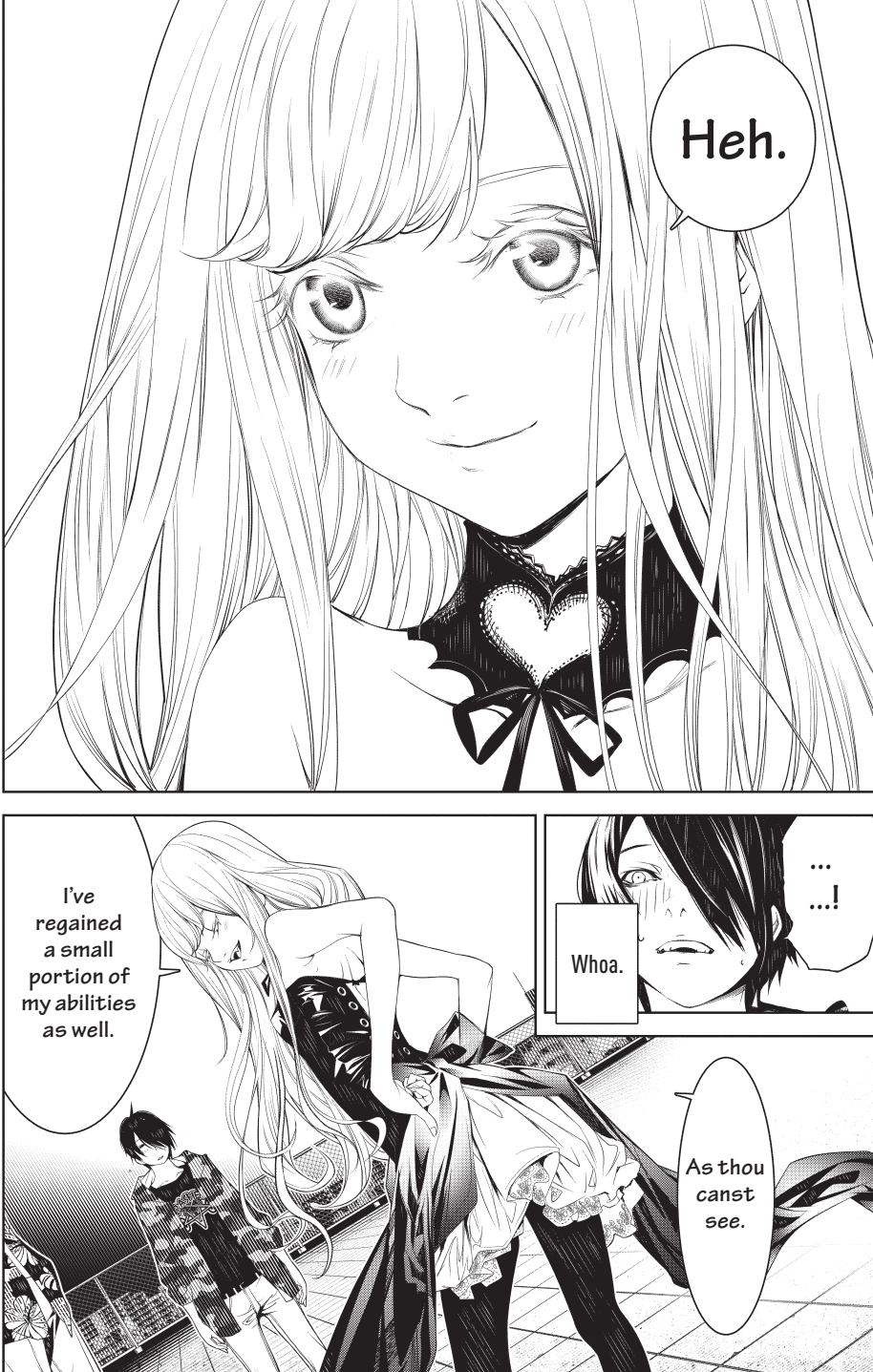
IT WOULD LOWER MY IN-TENSITY AS A HUMAN.
I say that... because barely any of what he said made its way into my head.
I just had a feeling... I thought I knew what it was.
Or so it seems.
—Oshino went on to tell me all kinds of things.
CRASH
So, Araragi.
It isn't just Heart-Under-Blade.
BWOOF
Vampires don't like to create thralls too often. ...Especially not if they're about to die.
This feeling would turn into a conviction at a later point in time—
when I met Mayoi Hachikuji, a snail aberration.
Practicing what I called "active solitude" —unwittingly *distancing myself from others and separating myself from them*—
may have prepared me for this, allowing me to step foot into *this side*.

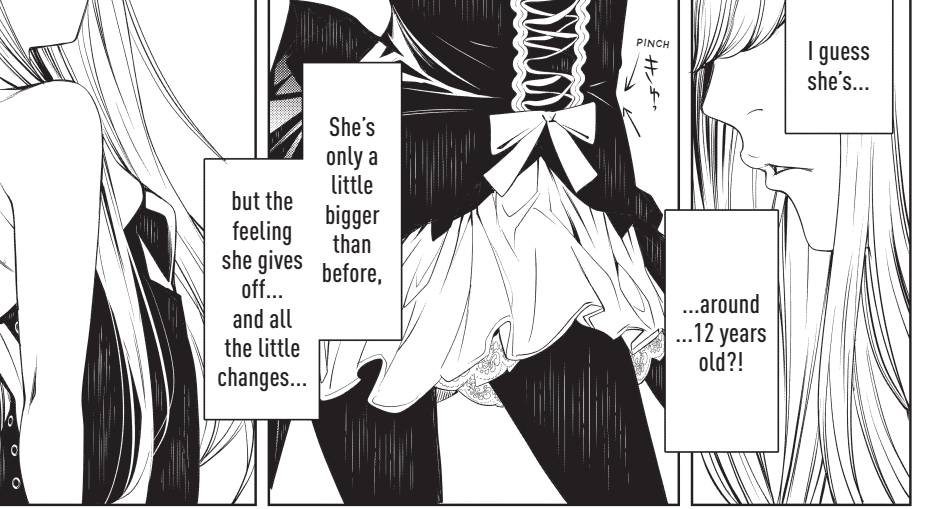
JOLT
BOOM
SZZT
CLAP CLAP
Ha hah|
What was that?
Wh—
YOU WERE LOOKING PRETTY WORRIED, SO I THOUGHT I'D DO SOMETHING TO CHEER YOU UP!
HA HA HA HA
SURPRISED? JUST A LITTLE MAGIC TRICK, ARARAGI.

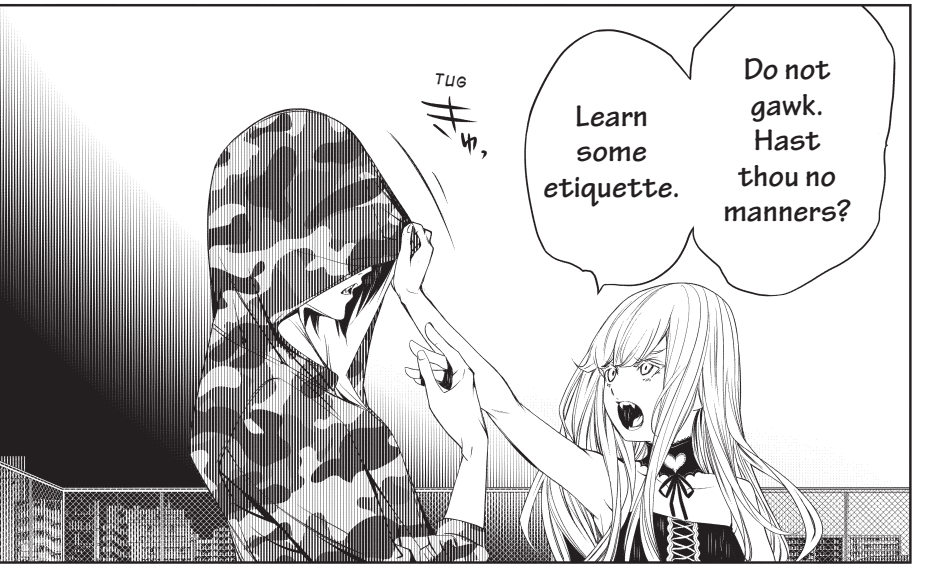
There's no need for...
Eh... Nothing.
It's fine.
Hm?
...?
What is it, Oshino?

If I'm being honest with you, I'm able to see all kinds of things.
Including the reason you became a vampire.
You might be able to understand it yourself if you look back on your past, Araragi.
Look back on my past, huh ...?
Well, it's true that I've avoided forming relationships up until now ...
ZWOOF
FSHT
Boy.
Do not speak when it is not thy place to do so.

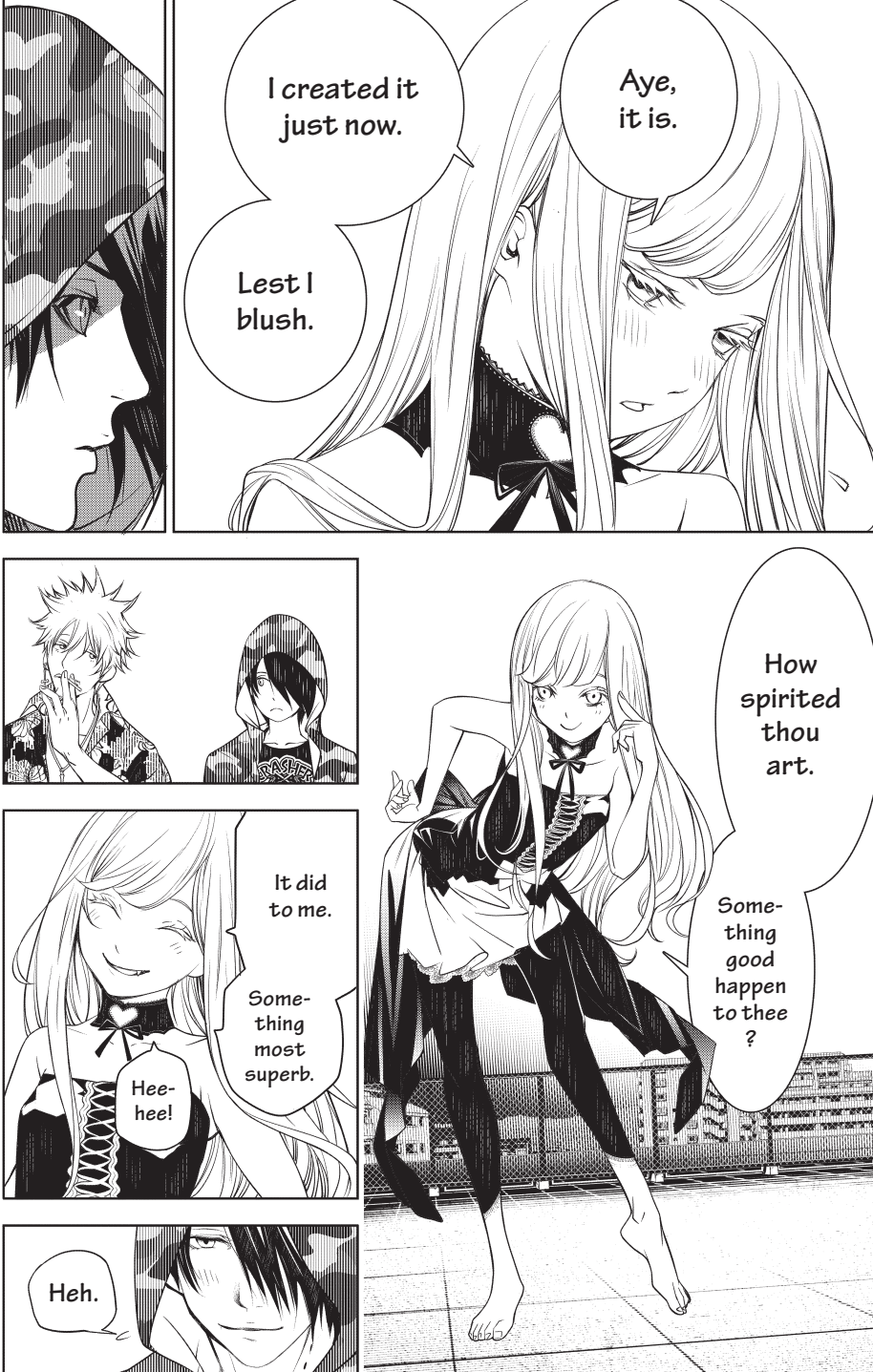
...?
?!
That voice —
Kiss-Shot?!
BRAP-BA-BA-BAAA
After
Before
Right arm
She's somehow bigger ?!
KISS-SHOT GREW!


Heh.
...
...!
Whoa.
I've regained a small portion of my abilities as well.
As thou canst see.


I guess she's...
PINCH
キュッ
...around ...12 years old?!
She's only a little bigger than before,
but the feeling she gives off... and all the little changes...

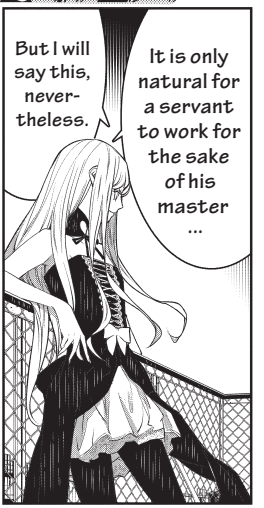

Do not gawk. Hast thou no manners?
Learn some etiquette.
TUG
ギュ

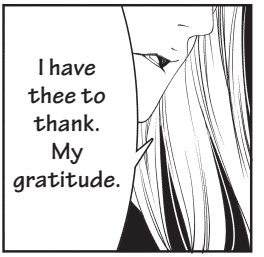
...
Is that another vampire rule?

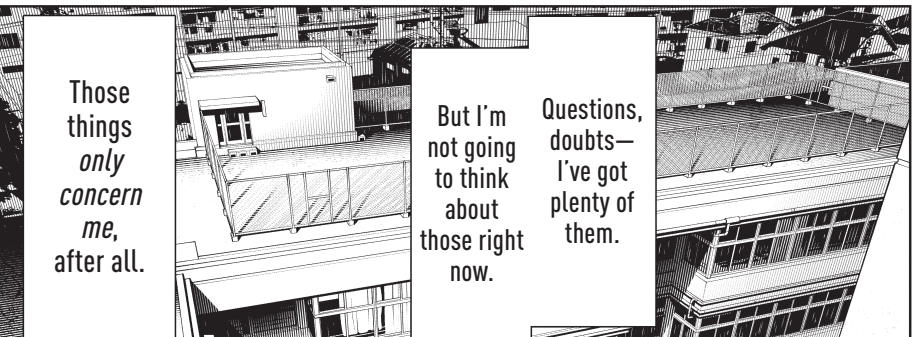

I created it just now.
Aye, it is.
Lest I blush.
How spirited thou art.
Some-thing good happen to thee?
It did to me.
Some-thing most superb.
Hee-hee!
Heh.

Ha hah —
HA HA HA HA!
HA HA HA HA!
HAH!

Ha hah ...
...
I've made up my mind.


But I will say this, nevertheless.
It is only natural for a servant to work for the sake of his master ...


I have thee to thank. My gratitude.


Those things *only concern me*, after all.
But I'm not going to think about those right now.
Questions, doubts— I've got plenty of them.

That's all I'll think about for now.
Right now,
I'm just going to get back this beautiful vampire's limbs.
CRASHER
PAT
ナデ
PAT
ナデ
AYE!
DO NOT ENTER

April 1.
It is 22 days.
—Yeah.
Hanekawa had come to the abandoned cram school...
...and as promised, I explained the whole situation to her.
Huh?
But I'd tossed out the calculation about humanity's demise that came up with Oshino.
...Seriously?
I think a straightforward geometric progression would give you about 33 days...but the original vampire is going to suck blood too.
So if you were to say a_n is the number of vampires on day n,
Day 1 would give you $a_1=1$, because there's only one vampire.

- On day 2, 1 vampire creates 2, giving you $a_2 = 1 + 1 * 2 = 3$

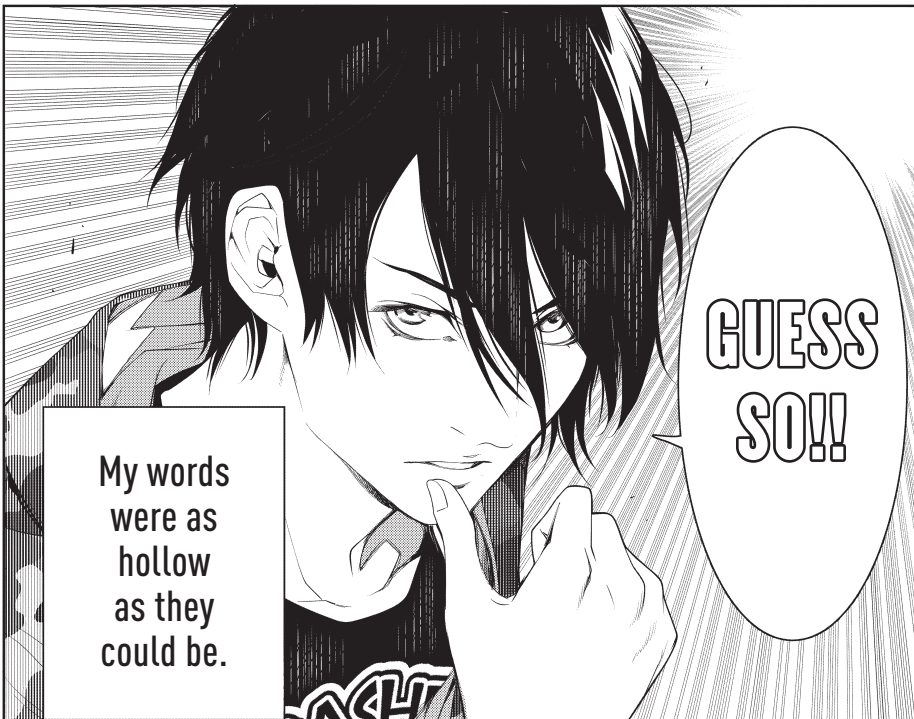
- On day 3, 3 vampires each create 2 vampires, giving you $a_3 = 3 + 3 * 2 = 9$

Expressed as a formula, the number of individuals on day $n + 1$ is a_{n+1} = (the number of vampires on the previous day) + (the number of vampires on the previous day) * 2 = 3 * (the number of vampires on the previous day) = $3 * a_n$

$a_1 = 1$, so a_n becomes a geometric sequence where the first term is 1 and the ratio is 3, meaning $a_n = 1 * 3^{n-1} = 3^{n-1}$.

If we were to say the world's population is 7.7 billion, $a_{21} = 3^{20} = 3,486,784,401$ (approx. 3.4 billion) and $a_{22} = 3^{21} = 10,460,353,203$ (10.4 billion).

Therefore, the entire world would be vampires by day 22.



Continued in Volume 11

Next Volume Preview

...Episode.
Episode
Will Koyomi...
...truly be able to return to the path of humanity?
You're ...
...right here.
COMING OCTOBER 2021!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga), volume 10

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